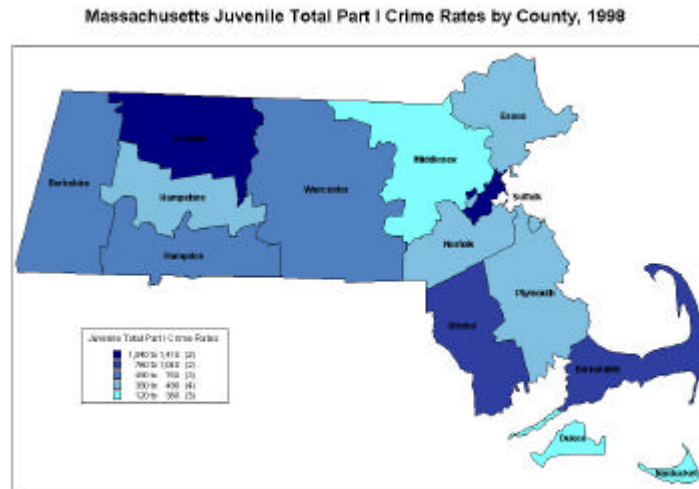


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# Juvenile Crime in Massachusetts

The Characteristics of Massachusetts' Juvenile Population,  
Juveniles in the Justice System, Juvenile Arrests, and Data  
Reported by Massachusetts Law Enforcement to  
the National Incident-Based Reporting System



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Public Safety Programs Division

***Prepared by the Massachusetts Statistical Analysis Center***

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This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Statistical Analysis Center, with assistance from the Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit, October 2000.

This report can also be downloaded in PDF from the Executive Office of Public Safety Programs Division Web Page at: <http://www.state.ma.us/ccj>

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If you refer to this report in a publication or in any other manner, we would appreciate being informed about such a reference. Whenever possible, a copy of such a document or reference should be sent to the Statistical Analysis Center at the address below.

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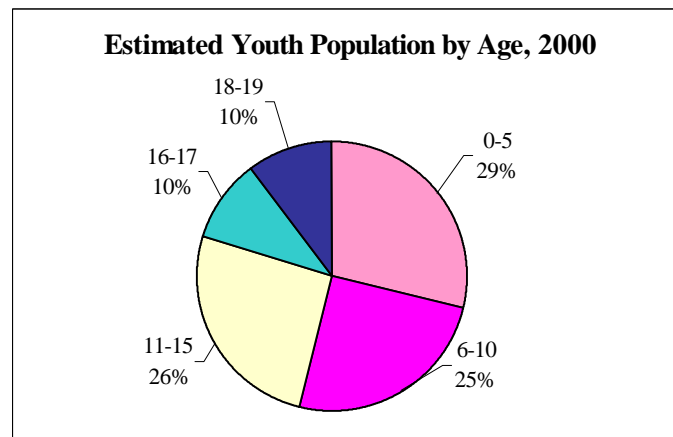
**CHARACTERISTICS OF MASSACHUSETTS'  
JUVENILE POPULATION**

## MASSACHUSETTS' JUVENILE POPULATION

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According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Massachusetts year 2000 estimated population is 6,200,000, ranking 13<sup>th</sup> in population size compared to the other 49 states. Furthermore, the 2000 census estimates youth age 19 years and under represent 27 percent of the total population in Massachusetts. Specifically, youth ages 11 to 15 comprise 26 percent of the youth population, youth ages 16 to 17 represent 10 percent of youth, and youth ages 18 to 19 encompass an additional 10 percent of the youth population. Youth under the age of 11 represent 54 percent of the youth population in Massachusetts.

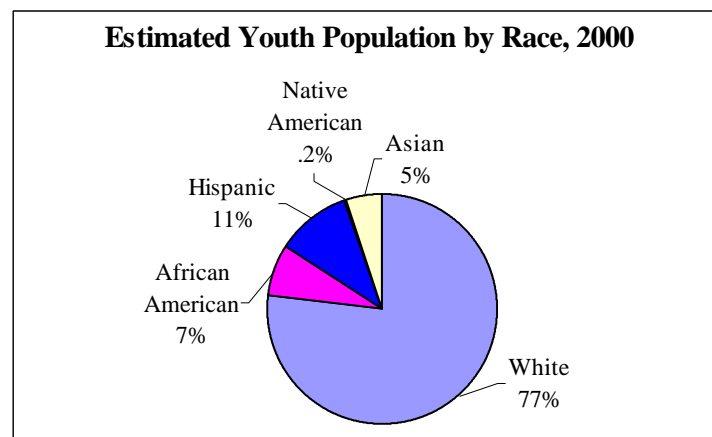
**Figure 1-1.**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

According to the 2000 Census Bureau estimates, youth ages 19 years and under are comprised of 51 percent males and 49 percent females. The racial composition of Massachusetts' youth is 76.8 percent white, 7.3 percent African-American, 10.3 percent Hispanic, 5 percent Asian, and .2 percent Native American.

**Figure 1-2.**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

The Census Bureau approximates that by 2002, the population of youth aged 17 years and under will increase by 5 percent over the 1995 estimate, representing an increase of almost 70,000 youth. The Census Bureau further estimates the Massachusetts population of young people between 14 and 17 years old will increase 30 percent by 2005, as compared to 1995 estimates, representing an increase of approximately 87,000 youth. The population of children impacts the demand for schools and health care, in addition to, social services and amenities that deal with children and their families.

## EDUCATION

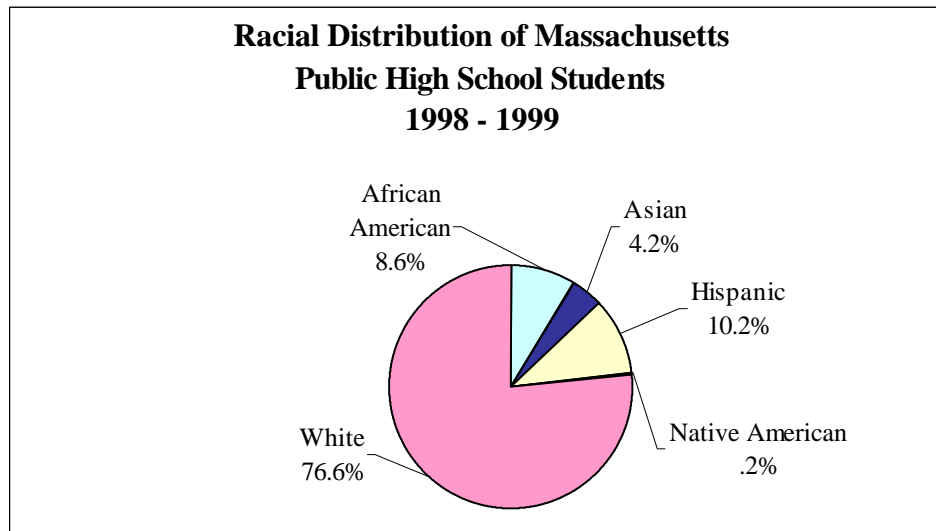
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The Massachusetts Department of Education (2000) reports the total high school student (grades 9-12) enrollment for the 1998-1999 school year was 258,026 youth.

### ***Racial Distribution***

Remaining consistent with the prior school year, the racial distribution of all public school students during the 1998-1999 school year was: 76.6 percent white, 10.2 percent Hispanic, 8.6 percent African American, 4.2 percent Asian, and .2 percent Native American. Comparing these data to the 1995 Census Bureau population estimates demonstrates that the racial distribution of students enrolled in public schools is very similar to the racial makeup of Massachusetts youth ages 0 – 17 (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

**Figure 1-3.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

### ***School Dropouts***

The Massachusetts Department of Education defines a dropout “as a student in grade nine through twelve who leaves school prior to graduation for reasons other than transfer to another school, and does not re-enroll before the following October 1” (1999, p. 1). A number of risk factors have been identified as contributing to school dropout rates. These include, lack of commitment to school and one’s role as a student, the *experience* of academic failure, and aggressive or impulsive behavior in the early primary grades. One or more of these factors may enhance a student’s likelihood of leaving school prior to graduating (Snyder & Sickmund, 1995).

The Massachusetts Department of Education (2000) reports from 1993 to 1999, dropout rates in Massachusetts’ public schools have remained fairly constant. During the 1999 school year, a total of 9,188 ninth-through-twelfth-graders dropped out of Massachusetts public schools, representing 3.6 percent of the 258,026 students enrolled in grades nine through twelve.

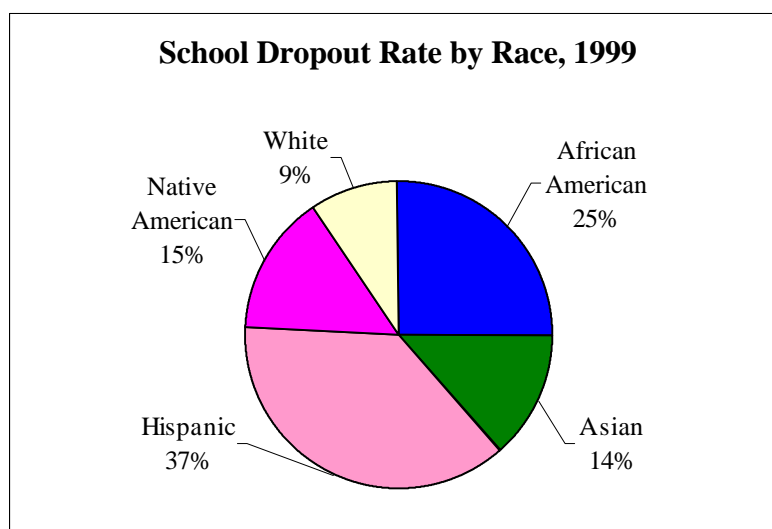
**Table 1-1. School Dropout Rates, 1993 – 1999**

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of Student Dropouts	7,975	8,512	8,396	8,177	8,453	8,582	9,188
Percentage of Total Students	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.6

Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

Dropout rates have varied generally by race/ethnicity. In 1999, the highest dropout rate was seen among the Hispanic youth population, and the lowest dropout rate was seen among white youth. The Hispanic dropout rate significantly increased to 9.8 percent in 1999 from 8.2 percent in 1998. Although the dropout rate also increased for other minority groups, it was not as extreme. The rate for African American students increased from 6.1 percent in 1998 to 6.7 percent in 1999, and the rate for Asian American youth increased to 3.6 percent from 3.5 percent. The dropout rate for white students slightly decreased to 2.5 percent from 2.6 percent. Of the students representing the 3.6 percent who dropout, over one-third are Hispanic (37%), compared to 1-out-of-10 who are white. (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

**Figure 1-4.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

Also in 1999, the dropout rate for males was higher (4.0 percent) than the female rate (3.1 percent), and has remained consistently higher over the past several years. For grades 9 through 12, 11<sup>th</sup> grade students had the highest rate of dropouts during the past seven years, averaging 4.1 percent.

**Table 1-2. School Dropout Rates by Grade, 1993 – 1999**

Grade Level	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Grade 9	3.2%	2.9%	3.1%	2.8%	2.8%	2.7%	3.1%
Grade 10	3.8%	4.2%	3.7%	3.7%	3.8%	3.6%	3.8%
Grade 11	4.0%	4.4%	4.5%	3.9%	4.0%	4.2%	4.3%
Grade 12	3.0%	3.3%	3.1%	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%	3.1%

Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

### ***School Exclusions***

The Massachusetts Department of Education defines student exclusion as "the removal of a student from regular school activities for disciplinary reasons permanently, indefinitely, or for more than ten consecutive days" (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000, p. 1). The number of student exclusions that occurred during the 1998-1999 school year represented a five-year low. Massachusetts' student exclusions remained consistent from 1995-1997, declined 11 percent in 1998, and decreased less than one percent in 1999 from the prior school year.

**Table 1-3. Number of Student School Exclusions, 1995 – 1999**

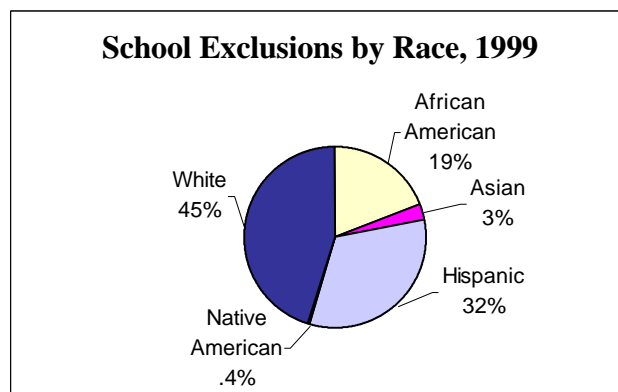
Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of Student Exclusions	1,485	1,482	1,498	1,334	1,326

Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

During the 1998-1999 school year, 83 percent of the excluded students were male and 17 percent were female. A total of 26 students were excluded more than once during the 1998-1999 school year, representing a 10 percent decrease from the previous year, and a 47 percent decrease from 1996-1997 (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

The racial distribution of the excluded students for the 1998-1999 school year was 0.8 percent Native American, 3 percent Asian, 19 percent African American, 32 percent Hispanic and 45 percent white. In comparison to the total student enrollment, African-American, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American students are disproportionately excluded from school. While minority youth comprised 23 percent of the total student population, they accounted for over half (55%) of student exclusions. Hispanic students represented the highest minority exclusion rate. Although comprising nearly one-tenth of the total student enrollment, Hispanic students accounted for almost one-third of student exclusions. Whereas, Caucasian students comprised 77 percent of the total student population, they accounted for 45 percent of student exclusions (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

**Figure 1-5.**

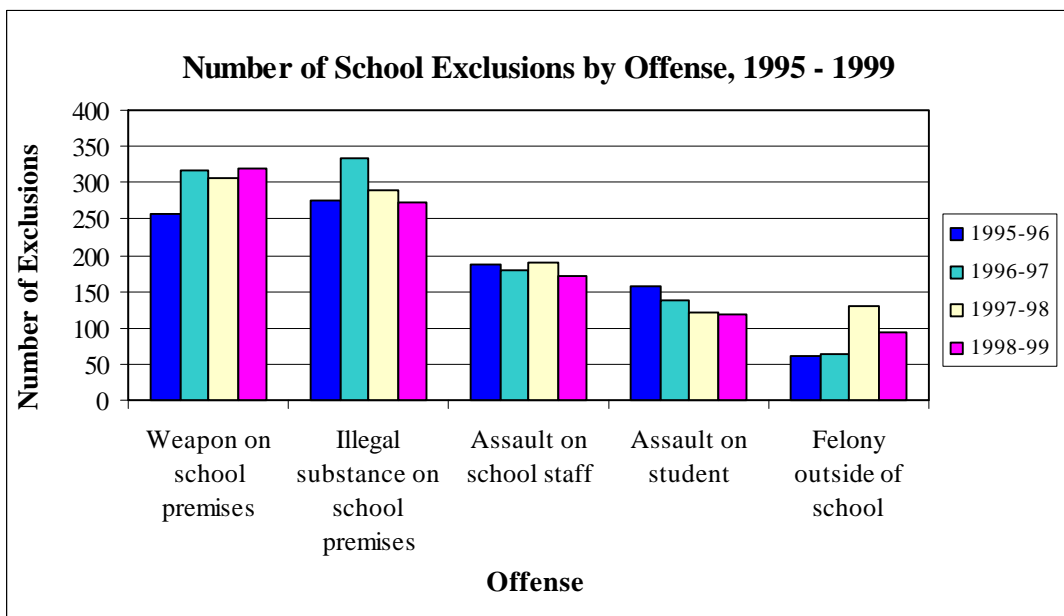


Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

According to the Department of Education (2000) the main causes of school exclusion were: weapons possession (24%), possession of illegal substances on school premises (21%), assault

on staff (13%), and assault on students (9%). The 1998-1999 school year saw 319 exclusions for weapons possession on school premises, a 4 percent increase from the previous school year. The 1998-1999 school year also witnessed 273 exclusions for illegal substances on school premises, a 6 percent decrease from the previous year. During the 1998-1999 school year, 171 students were excluded for assaulting school staff, and 118 students for assaulting other students, a decrease of 10 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

**Figure 1-6.**

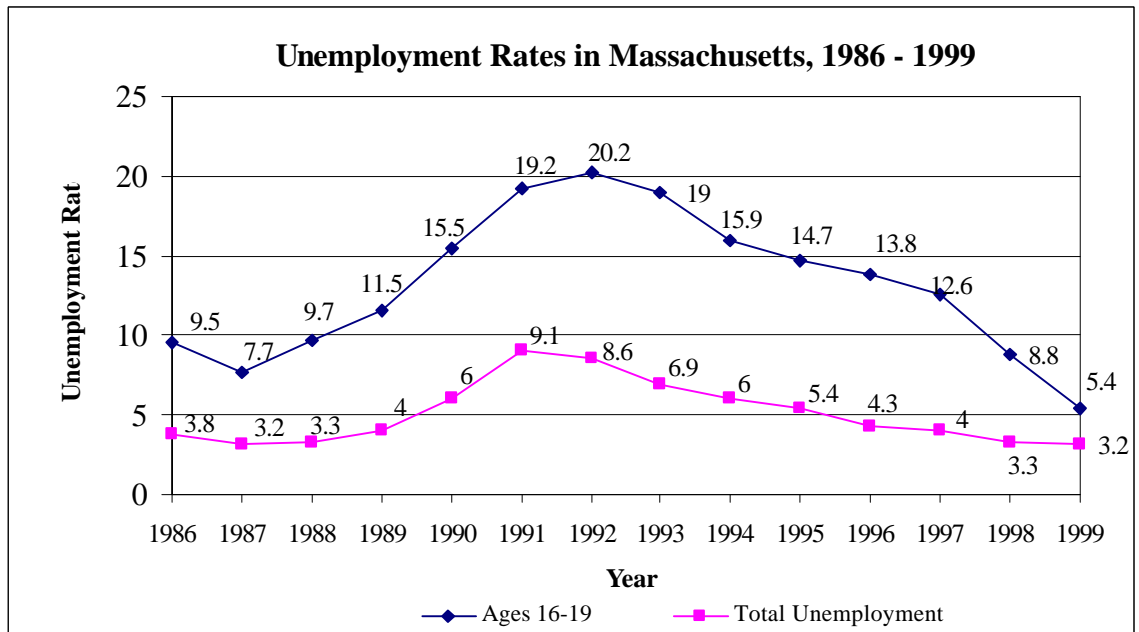


Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Following the national trend, Massachusetts' unemployment rate for both adults and juveniles continues to steadily decline. The unemployment rate for youth, ages 16-19, declined 39% from its 13-year high in 1992, to the 1999 rate of 5.4. Also in 1999, the Massachusetts unemployment rate for youth was over one and one half times the Commonwealth's adult unemployment rate (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2000).

**Figure 1-7.**



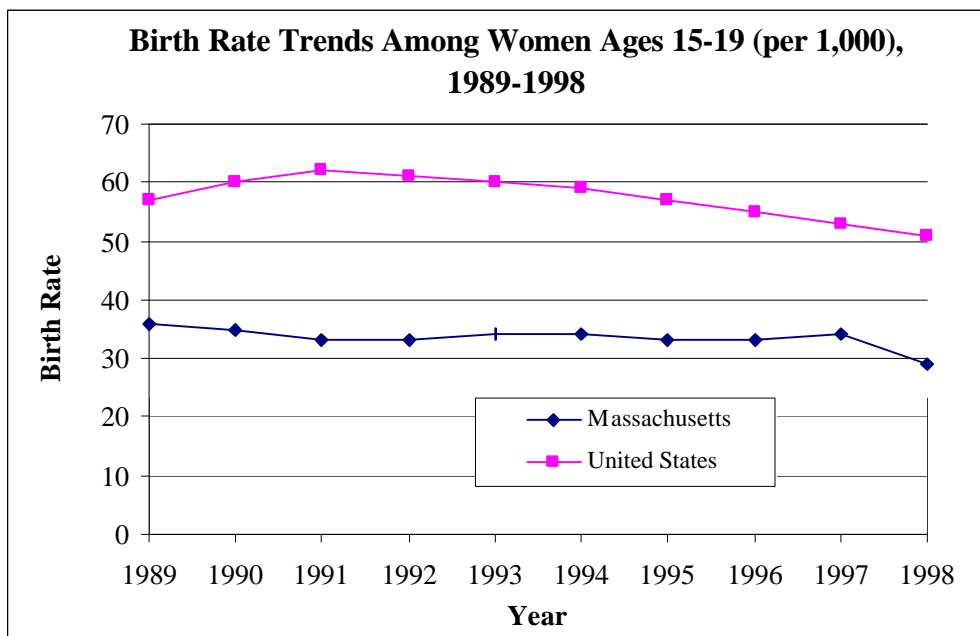
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1999

## TEEN PREGNANCY

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, every year, more than 900,000 American young women aged 15-19 become pregnant, and approximately 190,000 teens aged 17 and younger currently have children (1999). On average, young mothers are poor, and babies born to teenage mothers often have low birth weight and disproportionately high mortality. Approximately 80% of the children born to unmarried teenagers who dropped out of high school are poor. In contrast, just 8 percent of children born to married high school graduates aged 20 or older are poor. After gradually increasing from 1987 to 1991, the United States birth rate for young women aged 15-19 declined in 1998 for the seventh straight year. Recent declines in both birth and abortion rates indicate that teen pregnancy rates are continuing to decrease (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999). The year 1999 concluded with a record low U.S. birth rate for the 15-17 year old age group, reversing teen birth trends witnessed in the 1980s. The birth rate decreased by 20 percent for teens aged 15-19, from 62.1 births per 1,000 in 1991 to 49.6 in 1999. Moreover African American teens reflect the largest decrease in teen birth rates of any group (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2000).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has consistently fallen below the national average for teenage births (mothers under 20). In 1998, Massachusetts' birth rate was 28.6 per 1,000 women aged 15-19, compared to a national rate of 51.1 per 1,000 women (Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2000).

**Figure 1-8.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2000

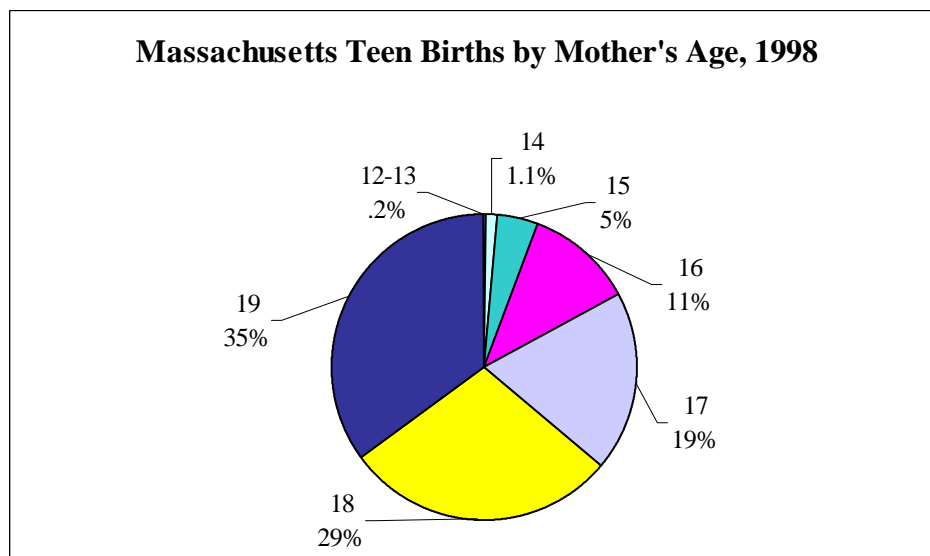
While the Massachusetts' overall teenage birth rate is below the national average, the following five Massachusetts communities had the highest teen birth rates in 1998 and all had birth rates higher than the national average: Holyoke (131.3 births per 1,000 Holyoke women ages 15-19 years), Chelsea (115.5), Lawrence (113.4), Springfield (84.1), and Southbridge (82.0). The

communities of Lynn (76.2), New Bedford (72.5), Lowell (65.8), Brockton (65.7), Fall River (56.4), Fitchburg (54.2) and Worcester (51.2) also had teen birth rates above the national average of 51.1.

In 1998, 5,902 babies were born to Massachusetts young women under the age of 20. Overall, the Commonwealth teenage births represent only 7.3 percent of the total state births, significantly below the national teen average of 12.3 percent (Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2000).

In 1998, teenage mothers aged 18-19 comprised 64 percent of all teenage births in the Commonwealth, followed by 35 percent of teenage births to mothers ages 15-17, and 1.3 percent to young women under the age of 15. In 1998, there were a total of 14 births for youth age 12-13; 336 births for youth age 14-15; 1,783 births to mothers age 16-17; and 3,769 births to young women age 18-19 (Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2000).

**Figure 1-9.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2000

Fifty percent (50%) of 1998 Massachusetts teen births were to white, non-Hispanic mothers. While this represents a slight increase from the previous year (1%), this proportion has declined 3 percent since 1992. Between 1992-1998, the proportion of births to African American non-Hispanic teens declined by 3.2 percent. During the same period, Hispanic teen births increased 4 percent and Asian teen births increased .4 percent (Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2000).

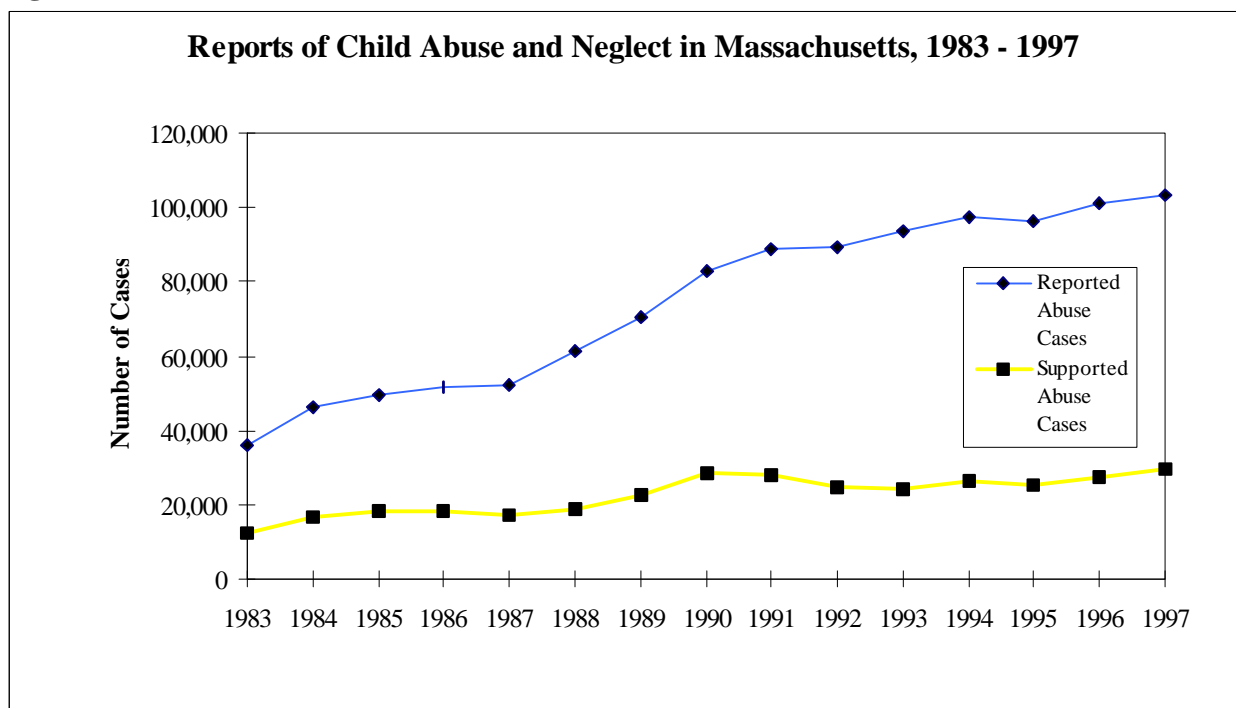
Approximately 69 percent of teen mothers' pre-natal care were supported with public funds, compared with 21 percent of women 20 and older. In 1998, 91 percent of teen mothers were unmarried, and this figure has basically remained stable since 1993. In cases where unmarried mothers acknowledged the paternity, 57 percent of the fathers were 20 years old or older. Teen mothers were 31 percent more likely to produce low birth rate babies than adult women (Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2000).

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The mission of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services (DSS) is to provide for the care and protection of youth who have been abused or neglected in a family setting. The Department of Social Services is responsible for investigating reports of child maltreatment, and is the recipient of reports of child abuse from both mandated and non-mandated reporters throughout the state. Mandated reporting groups include DSS social workers, law enforcement personnel, medical personnel, school personnel, and court personnel. Non-mandated reporters include self-reporting victims, relatives of the victim, and siblings. The DSS follows several procedures upon receiving a report of child abuse/neglect. Reports are screened in or out depending on all of the information presented regarding the case. Screened in cases are investigated by a DSS worker and, if found to be true, are upgraded to a supported case. The DSS classifies the abuse of children into four categories: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.

In 1997, the total number of abuse cases reported to DSS was 103,533, an increase of 2 percent over 1996. The number of supported abuse cases also increased in 1997, totaling 29,815, a 10 percent increase over 1996. 1997 witnessed the highest number of both reported and supported abuse cases since 1983.

**Figure 1-10.**



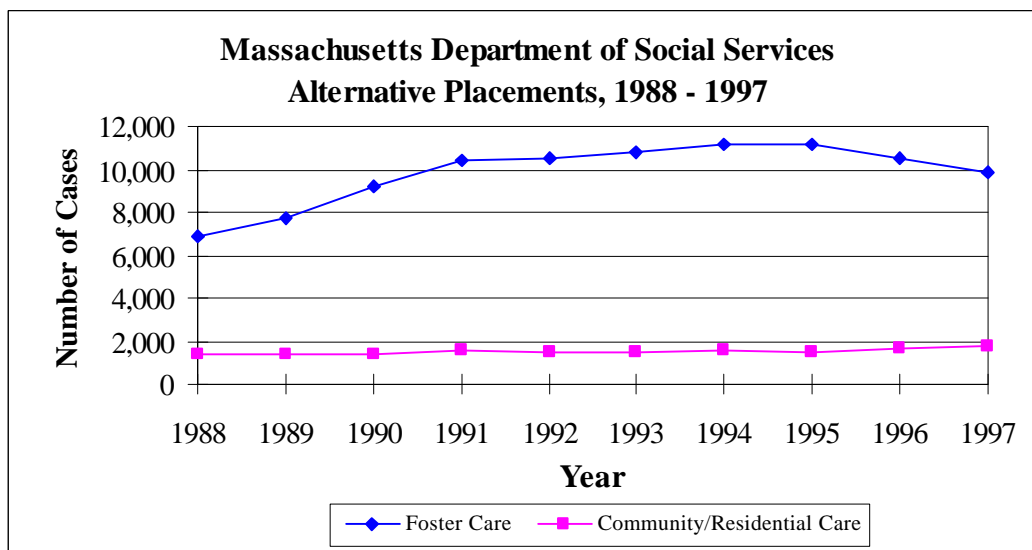
Source: Massachusetts Department of Social Services, 1999

Foster care services are provided for children who have been neglected, abandoned, or have experienced physical or sexual abuse, and are unable to live with their own families. For children who require a more structured setting than that provided by a foster care home, community or residential care is made available. Community programs provide a more structured setting, while enabling the child to attend school and programs in the local

community. Residential programs offer a higher level of structure by providing on-site schooling and programs (Massachusetts Department of Social Services, 1999).

Between the years 1988 and 1995, the number of children in foster care services increased from 6,861 to 11,196, an increase of 63 percent. However, by 1997, the number of children in foster care services declined to 9,831, which represents a 12 percent decrease over the 1995 figure. Between 1988 and 1997, the total number of children who required community or residential care services increased from 1,402 to 1,728, an increase of 23 percent (Massachusetts Department of Social Services, 1999).

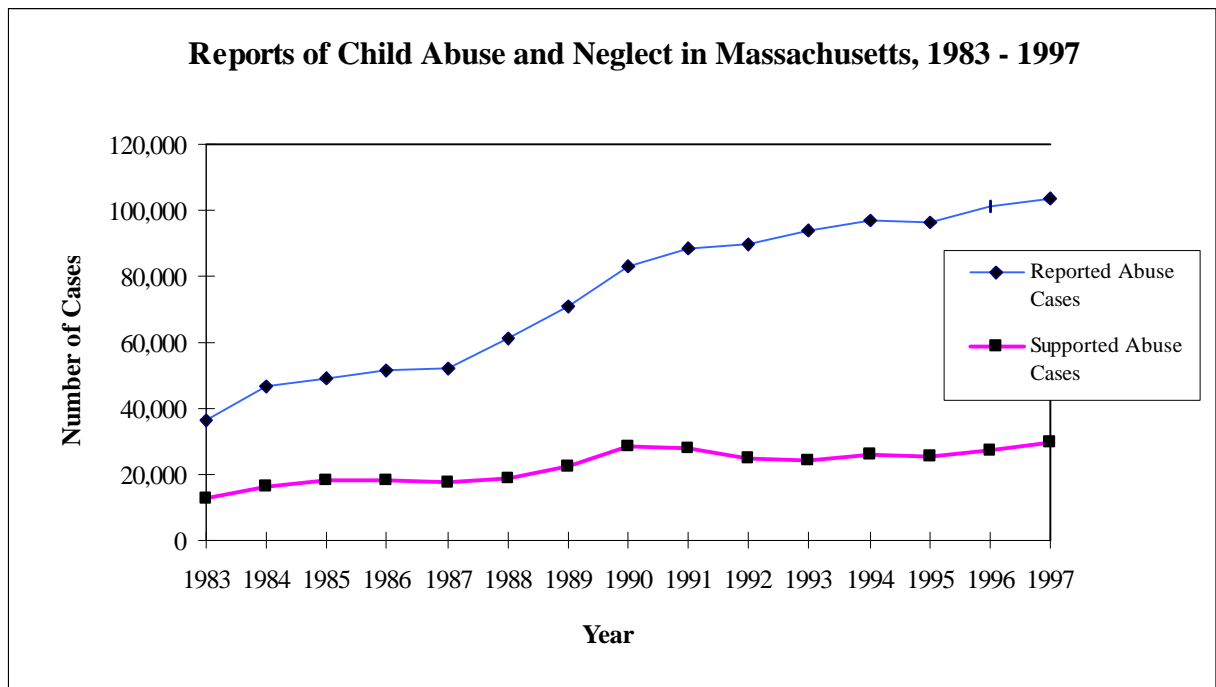
**Figure 1-11.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Social Services, 1999

In 1996, there were 7,638 cases of reported child sexual abuse cases, representing a 5 percent increase from 1995. Supported child abuse cases totaled 1,415, a 7 percent decrease from the previous year (Massachusetts Department of Social Services, 1999).

**Figure 1-12.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Social Services, 1999

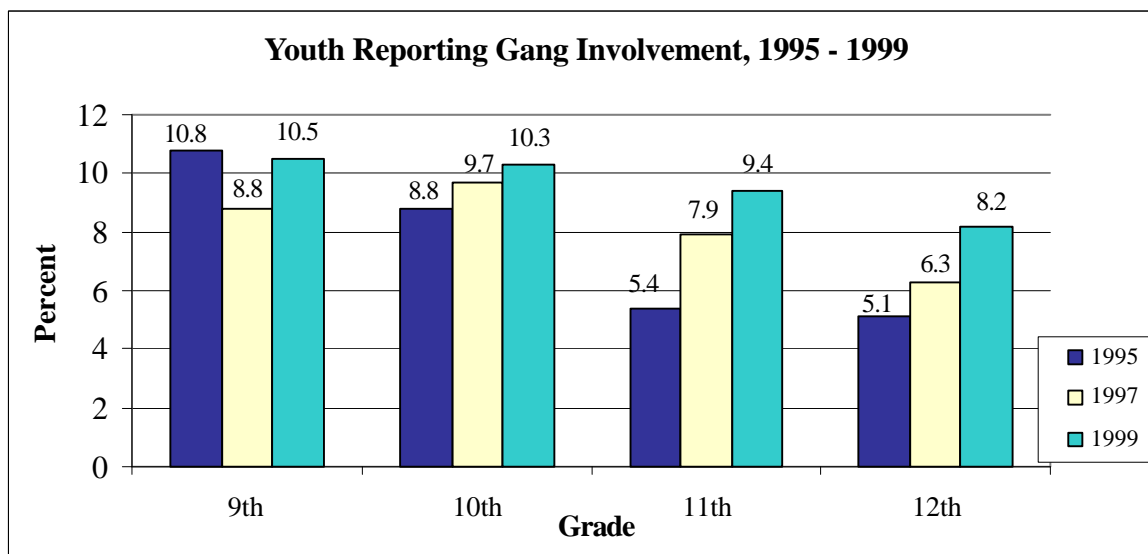
## GANG INVOLVEMENT

Violence-related behavior in the community and at school endangers the health and safety of all young people. According to the Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey (MYRBS), in the 30 days prior to the survey, 6 percent of all high school students did not attend school on at least one school day because they felt unsafe in school or on the way to or from school. Over one third (37%) of youth had been in a physical fight, and one student in seven (14%) had been in a fight on school property (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

According to the 1999 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, one in ten youth (10%) reported gang involvement (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000). Youth who reported gang involvement were more likely, than non-gang involved youth, to engage in such high risk behaviors as carrying a weapon, and marijuana and alcohol use. Male high school students were twice as likely to report gang involvement (13.3%) than female students (6.0%).

Gang participation by 9<sup>th</sup> grade students decreased between 1995 and 1997 (10.8% to 8.8%), however, involvement increased again in 1999, to 10.5 percent. Also, gang involvement increased for all upper grade levels, with students in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade reflecting the largest increase. Tenth-grade youth involved in gangs increased from 8.8% in 1995 to 10.3% in 1999; 11<sup>th</sup> grade students' gang involvement increased from 5.4% in 1995 to 9.4% in 1999; and 12<sup>th</sup> grade participation increased from 5.1% in 1995 to 8.2% in 1999 (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

**Figure 1-13.**

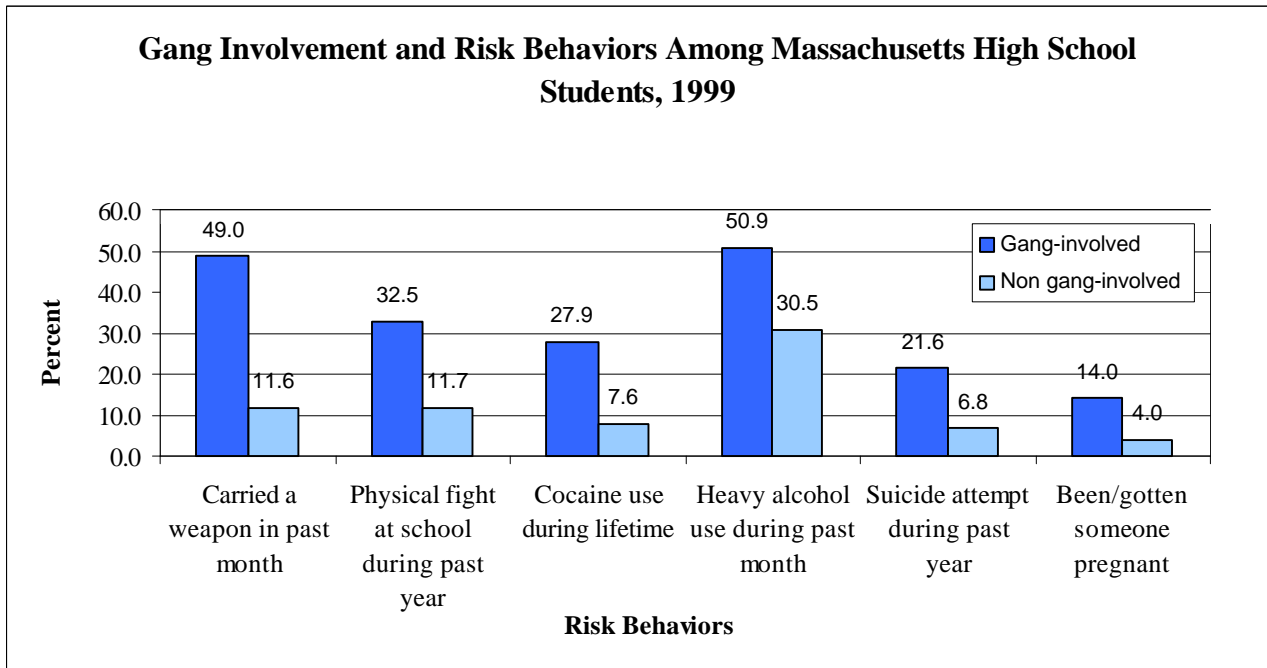


Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

Students who were involved in gangs were more likely than others to report high rates of both violence-related behaviors and other risk behaviors such as: carrying a weapon, fighting, drug and alcohol use, attempting suicide, and becoming pregnant or have gotten someone pregnant. Of youth who are gang-involved, 49 percent report carrying a weapon in the past month, compared to 11.6 percent of youth who are not gang-involved. Gang-involved youth were four

times as likely (28%), as other youth (7%), to report cocaine use. Further, gang-involved youth were more than one and a half times as likely to engage in heavy alcohol use in the past month (51%), compared to youth not involved with a gang (31%) (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

**Figure 1-14.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

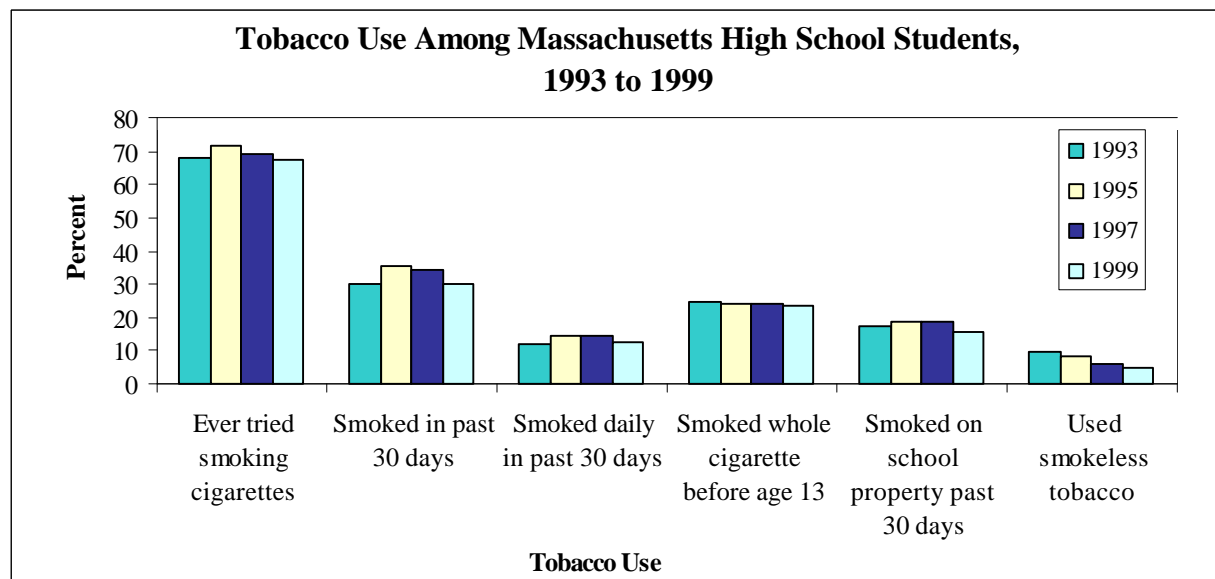
## YOUTH DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

According to the 1999 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey (MYRBS), there has been a reported increase in alcohol use among Massachusetts' high school students and a leveling off or slight decrease in drug and tobacco use.

### ***Tobacco Use***

The 1999 MYRBS found that over two-thirds of high school students (67%) have tried smoking cigarettes and almost one quarter (23%) had smoked at least one whole cigarette before age 13. Further, students who smoked before the age of 13 were significantly more likely to report regular smoking. The MYRBS indicates the percentage of students that reported smoking recently, which increased between 1993 and 1995, has substantially declined in 1999. Recent cigarette smoking increased from 30 percent of students in 1993 to 37 percent in 1995, decreasing slightly to 34 percent in 1997, and further decreasing to 30 percent in 1999. Furthermore, between 1995 to 1999, recent cigarette smoking declined for both male (35% to 30%) and female (36% to 31%) students. The study also found that students who reported smoking tobacco in the month prior to the survey were more likely to report using alcohol and marijuana in the past 30 days, and experimenting with cocaine. Students reporting daily smoking declined slightly between 1997 and 1999 (15% to 13%). Students reporting using smokeless tobacco has dramatically declined from 9.4 percent in 1993 to 4.9 in 1999 (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

**Figure 1-15.**



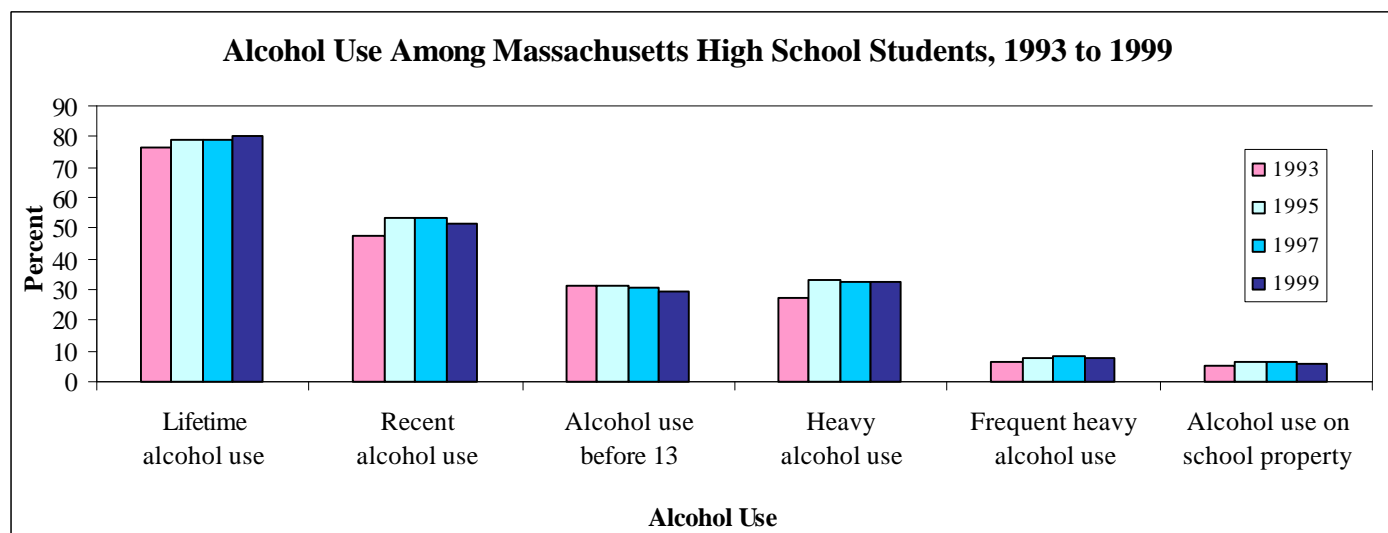
Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

### ***Alcohol Use***

The 1999 MYRBS found that 80 percent of Massachusetts' high school students reported having had a drink of alcohol in their lifetime, a slight increase from 1997 (79%). There was no measurable difference in alcohol use between male (81%) and female (80%) students. Thirty percent (30%) of students surveyed reported drinking alcohol before the age of 13. Additionally,

students who reported using alcohol before age 13 were more likely to report recent alcohol use (75% vs. 47%), heavy alcohol use (50% vs. 29%), and alcohol use on school property (13% vs. 4%). Six percent (6%) of all students report drinking alcohol on school property. In the 30 days prior to the survey, over one half of Massachusetts' high school students reported having at least one drink of alcohol (52%), one third participated in binge drinking (33%), and 8 percent acknowledged engaging in frequent binge drinking (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

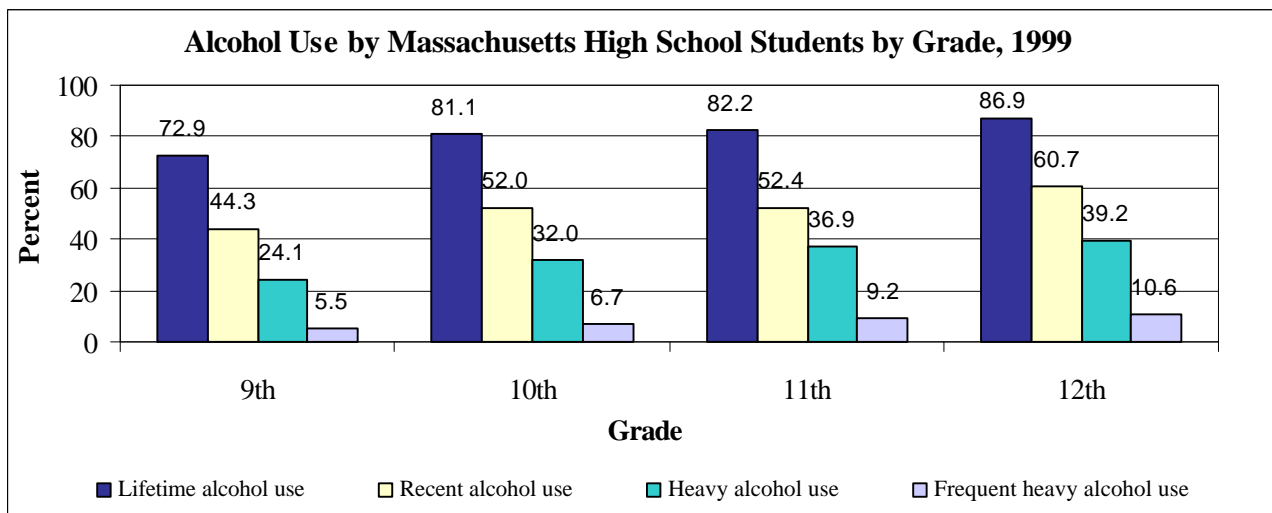
**Figure 1-16.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

Students reporting lifetime alcohol use escalated from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade (73% to 87%), with the biggest increase occurring between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. First year high school students were the least likely of all high school students to report recent alcohol consumption (44%); however, by the second year of high school, over half of all students (52%) reported having consumed alcohol at least once in the 30 days prior to the survey. There was a more gradual increase in recent alcohol use from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. By grade 12, 60% of students report alcohol use. Similarly, heavy drinking is commensurate with age (and grade). Almost one student in four (24%), first year high school students reported participating in heavy drinking. The rate rose to 39 percent among high school seniors (Massachusetts, Department of Education, 2000).

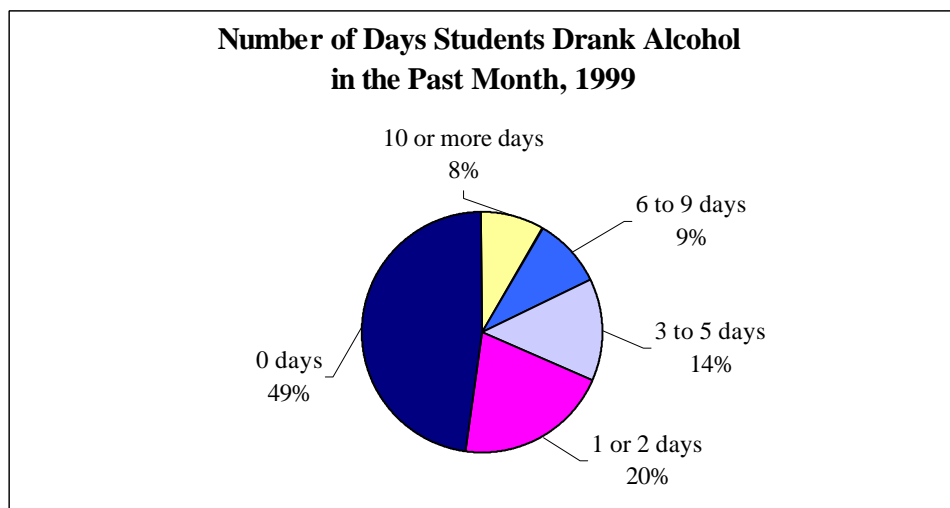
**Figure 1-17.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

Over half of all Massachusetts high school students surveyed (52%) consumed at least one alcoholic drink in the 30 days prior to the survey, of which, approximately 8 percent reported using alcohol 10 or more days in the previous month (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

**Figure 1-18.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

The MYRBS links recent alcohol consumption to other high risk behaviors including: drinking and driving, tobacco use, illegal drug use, physical violence, suicide attempts, and unprotected sexual intercourse. Students who reported *recent* alcohol use were more than twice as likely to report carrying a weapon in the past 30 days. Furthermore, they were almost twice as likely to have been in a physical fight in the past year, and twice as likely to have attempted suicide in the past year. For female students, a significant correlation was found between recent alcohol use and dating violence and unwanted sexual contact. Female students who reported alcohol use in the previous month, compared to those who did not recently use alcohol, were more likely to

report violence by a date (26% vs. 10%) and to have experienced sexual contact against their will (22% vs. 14%).

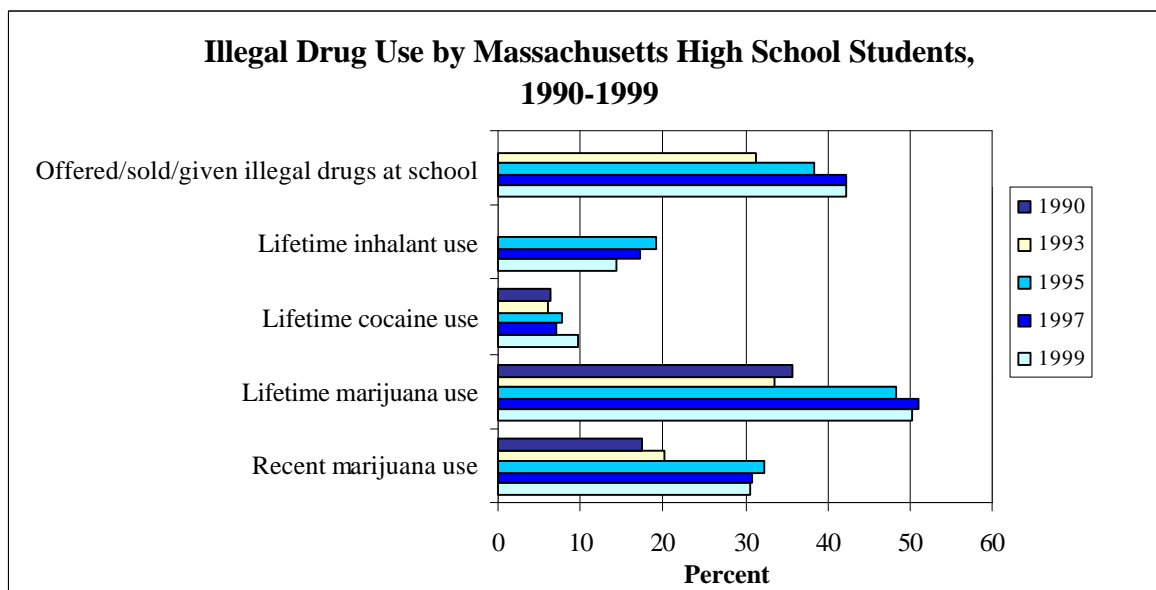
The Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (1998) states that 85 percent of their July 1, 1998, population reported using alcohol prior to commitment. Over one-third of the population (36%) reported consuming alcohol at least once per week.

### ***Drug Use***

According to the Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, “almost half of all Massachusetts high school students (47%) have never used any illegal drug and 72% have never used any illegal drug other than marijuana” (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000, p. 25). Survey results indicate marijuana appears to be a stepping-stone to other illicit drugs. The majority of youth (93%) who used other illegal drugs also acknowledged having used marijuana. Youth who reported illegal drug use were also more likely than those who had never used drugs to carry a weapon, experience dating violence, attempted suicide, and engage in high-risk sexual behaviors.

Half of all Massachusetts high school students surveyed (50%) have used marijuana at least once during their lifetime. The rates of lifetime marijuana use among students have increased steadily from 1993 (34%) to 1995 (48%) to 1997 (51%), and slightly declined in 1999 (50%). Thirty-one percent (31%) of students reported marijuana use in the 30 days prior to the survey, remaining unchanged from 1997. Almost one student in five (19%) reported inhalant use at least once (e.g., inhaled glue, aerosol sprays or paint fumes in order to get high) in 1995. There was a significant decrease in 1999, with one in seven (14%) high school students reporting inhalant use at least once. Over one-third of high school students (36%) were *sold*, *offered*, or *given* an illegal drug on school property during the year prior to the survey (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

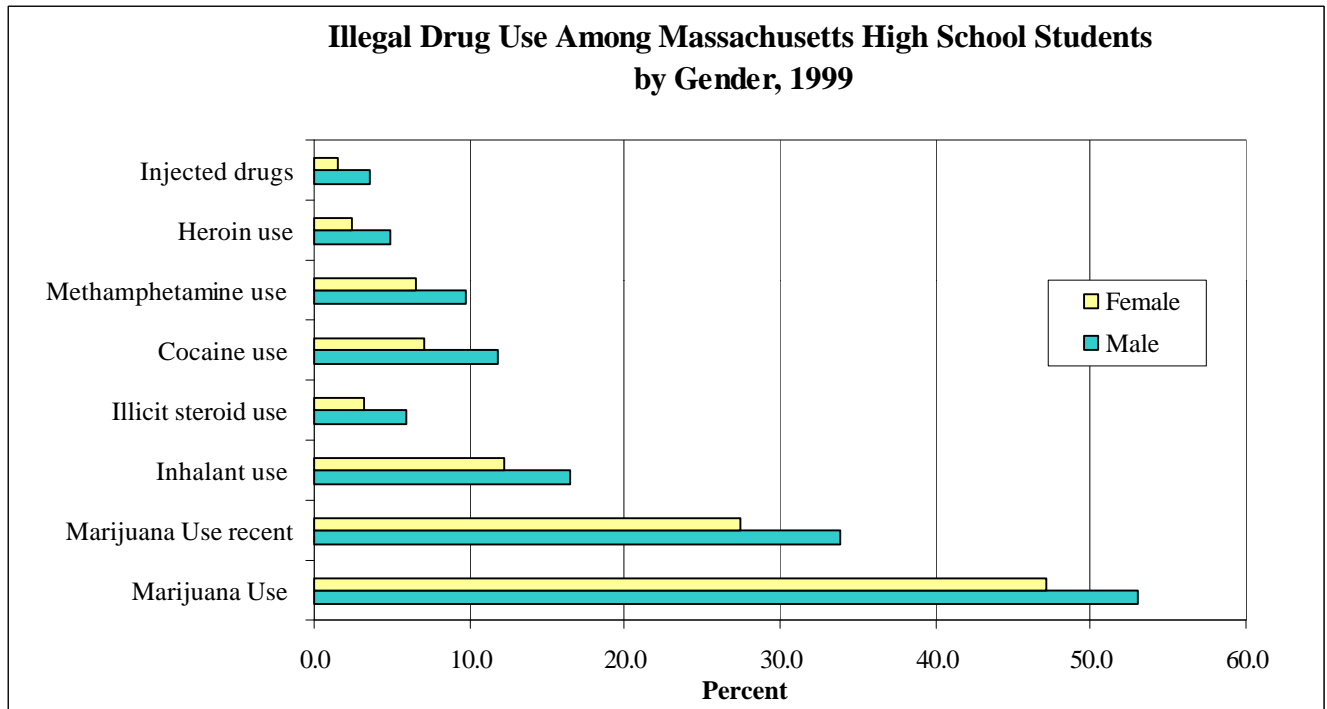
**Figure 1-19.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

Compared to female high school students, males had a significantly higher rate of lifetime cocaine use (12% to 7%), and inhalant use (17% to 12%). Use of marijuana one or more times among female students was slightly lower in 1999 (47%) than in 1997 (50%), however, it remains significantly higher than it had been in 1995 (42%) or 1993 (29%). According to the MYRBS, initial use of marijuana occurred at ages 13 and 14; with one in eight (13%) high school students reporting having had used marijuana before age 13, representing a significant increase since 1993 (7%) (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

**Figure 1-20.**

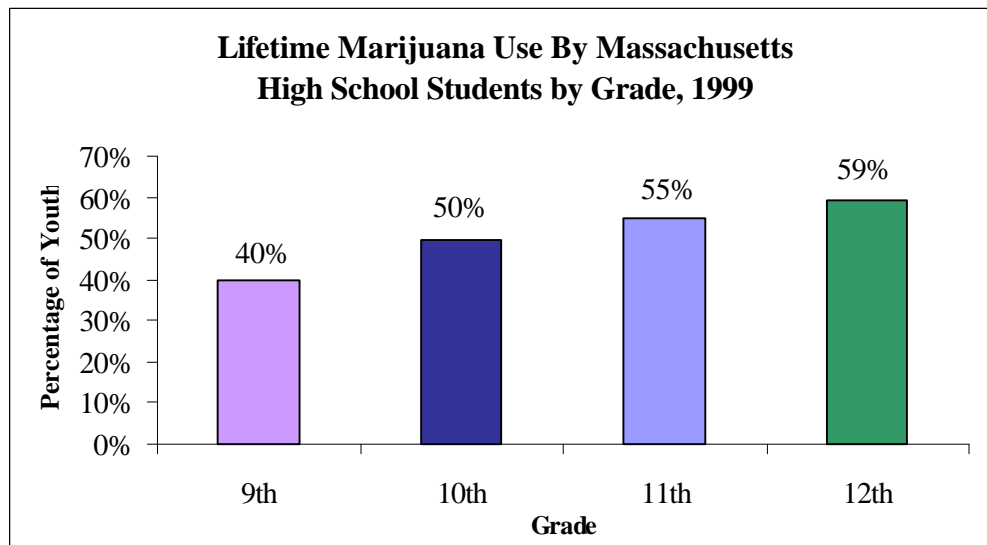


Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

In 1999, lifetime use of marijuana slightly declined for white students (52%) from the 1997 rate (53%), and dramatically decreased for African American students (50% compared to 65%). However, lifetime use of marijuana increased from 1997 to 1999 for Hispanic students (43% to 46%), Asian (21% to 31%), and "Other" (52% to 62%).

Lifetime use of marijuana also rose with grade level; 12<sup>th</sup> grade students had higher rates (59%) of marijuana use than 9<sup>th</sup> grade students (40%) (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

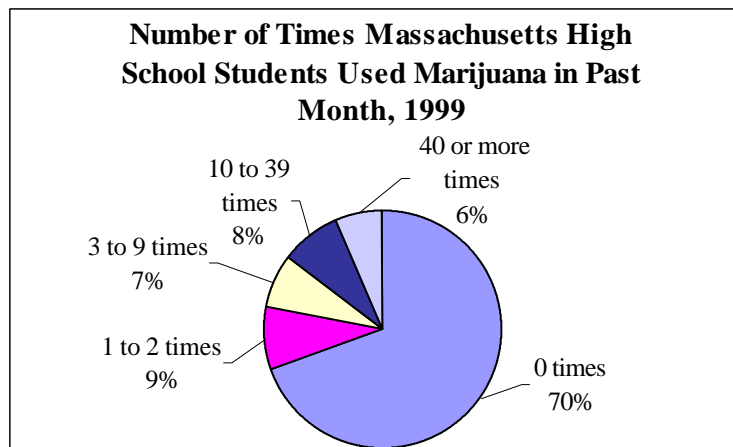
**Figure 1-21.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

In 1999, 14 percent of all students used marijuana ten or more times in the 30 days preceding the survey, and one student in twenty (6%) used marijuana forty or more times (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

**Figure 1-22.**



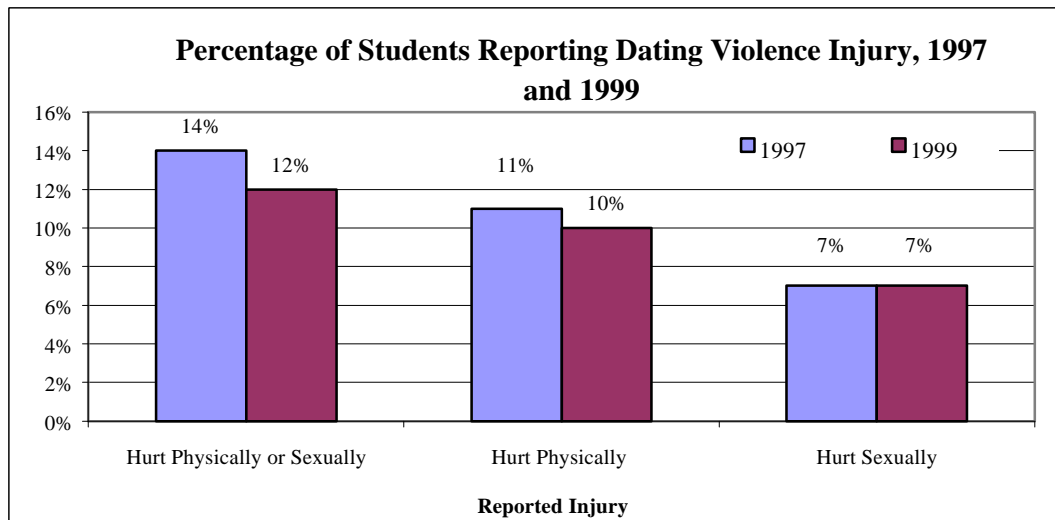
Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

The Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (1998) states that nearly 90 percent of their July 1, 1998, population reported some use of marijuana prior to commitment. Over sixty percent (60%) of the DYS population reported using marijuana at least once per week, of which 26 percent admitted to daily use of marijuana. One youth in twenty (5%) reported using cocaine at least one time per week prior to commitment, while 2 percent reported weekly crack cocaine use.

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

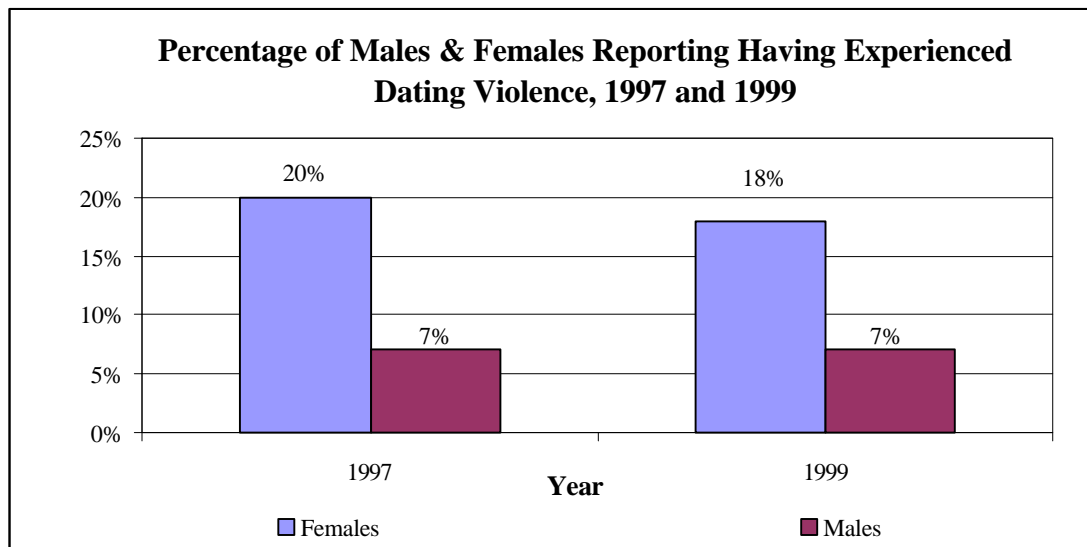
According to the 1999 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey (MYRBS) one of every eight students (12%) reported being physically or sexually hurt by someone they were dating. Females reported dating violence (18%) at a higher frequency than their male counterparts (7%) (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).

**Figure 1-23.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 1998, 2000

**Figure 1-24.**

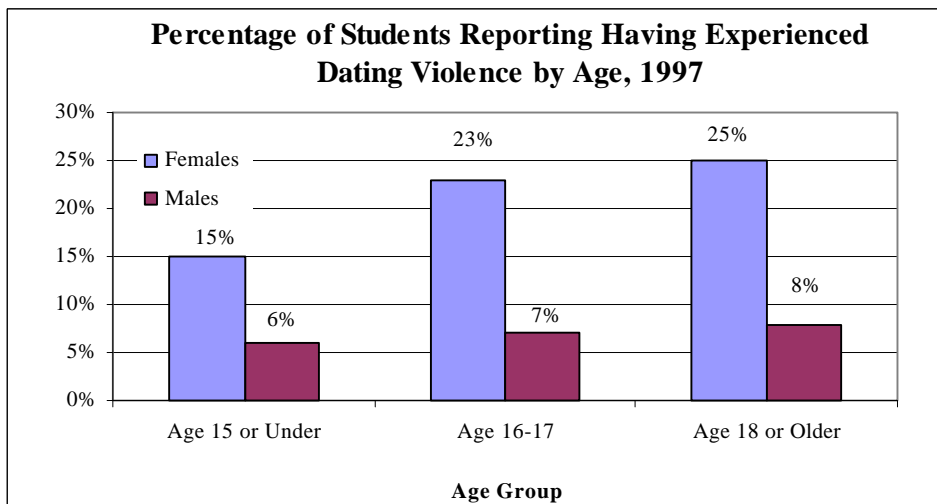


Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 1998, 2000

It appears that the incidence of dating violence increases as young people grow older. Twenty-five (25) percent of girls ages 18 and older reported being hurt by a date, compared to 15% of girls aged 15 and under (Massachusetts Department of Education, 1998). This trend can also be

seen among the male population. These progressive increases may reflect the age at which young people begin to date.

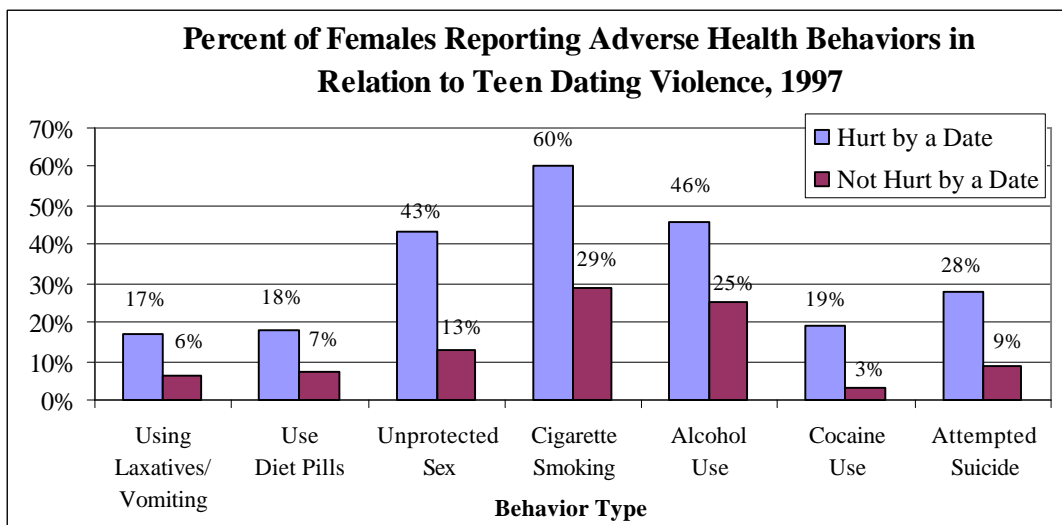
**Figure 1-25.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 1998

As with adults, dating violence is often a very traumatizing experience. Considering the obstacles adult victims face in obtaining help to remove themselves from an abusive environment, teenage victims have an equally difficult time resolving their feelings about the abuse and successfully reaching out for help. Consequently, dating violence was found to be related to several other adverse behaviors including drug and alcohol use, eating disorders, suicidal tendencies, and engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse. When compared to the population reporting no previous dating violence, those having experienced past dating violence reported higher incidences of the mentioned adverse health behaviors (Massachusetts Department of Education, 1998).

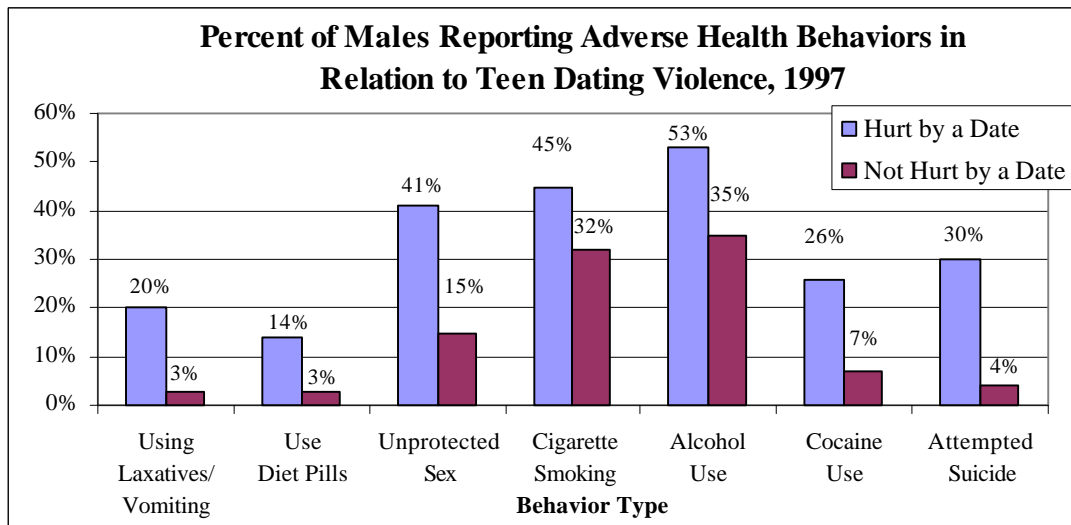
**Figure 1-26.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 1998.

Young women who have been hurt by a date were almost twice as likely to report consuming five or more drinks during the past month compared to those who had not experienced dating violence. With respect to drug use, abused females were six times more likely to use cocaine in their lifetime compared to the non-abused group. This is reflected in the male group also, where cocaine use was four times as likely to be used by young men reporting dating violence (Massachusetts Department of Education, 1998).

**Figure 1-27.**



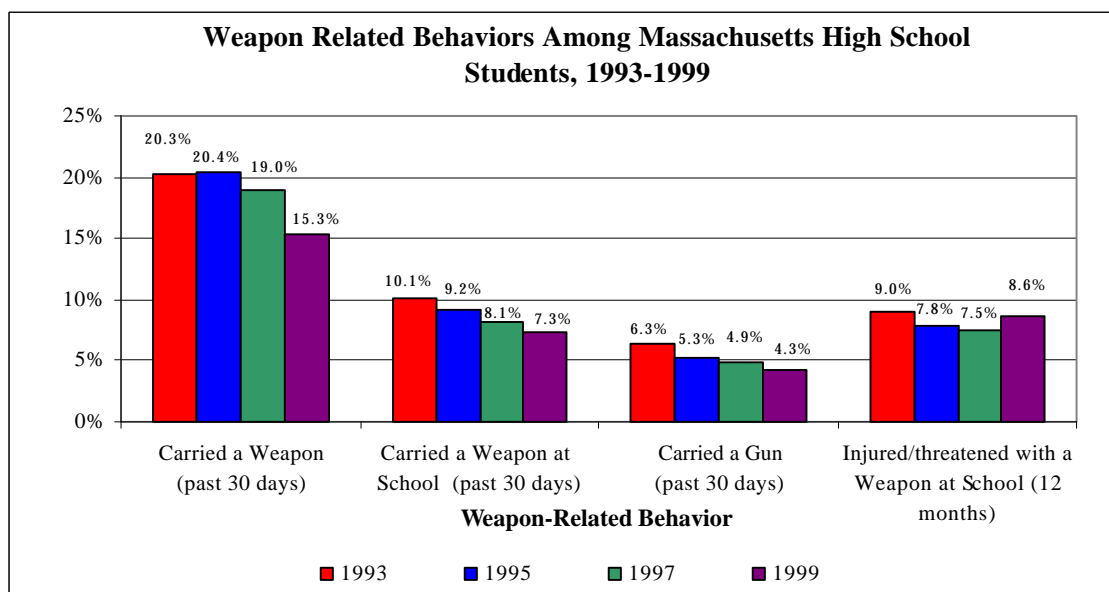
Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 1998.

## WEAPONS

### *Weapon-Related Behaviors*

The 1999 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000) surveyed high school students on the incidence of violence within and outside of the school environment. Overall, rates of weapon carrying have declined significantly from 1993 to 1999. Of the four reported weapon related behaviors (e.g., carrying a weapon, carrying a weapon inside of school, and carrying a gun), three have continued to decline over the past seven years. According to the Massachusetts Department of Education (2000, p. 32) “rates of weapon carrying in the past month dropped significantly from 19% in 1997 to 15% in 1999.” However, in 1999 one in twelve students (9%) reported being injured and/or threatened with a weapon within the past 12 months, an increase from 1997 to just below the 1993 figure.

**Figure 1-28.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000

According to the 1999 MYRBS, males were significantly more likely to report carrying a weapon than their female counterparts, 24% and 6% respectively. This gender difference was also noted with respect to carrying a weapon on school property, 11% of males compared to 3% females (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2000).



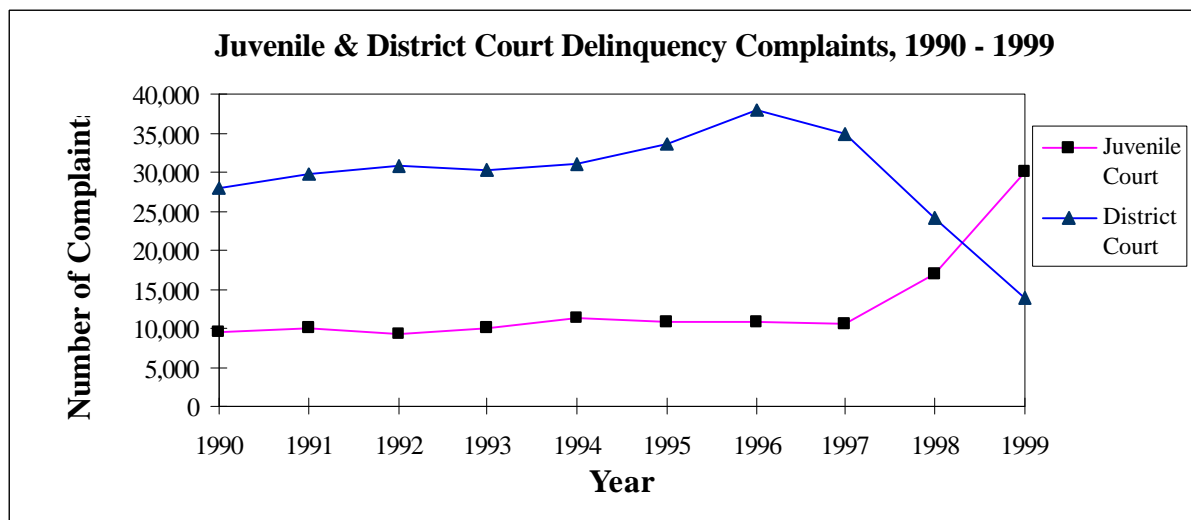
# **JUVENILES IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

## JUVENILES PROCESSED IN MASSACHUSETTS' COURTS

In Massachusetts, a delinquent child is defined as “a child between seven and seventeen who violates any city ordinance or town by-law or who commits any offence against a law of the commonwealth” (MGL C.119, S. 52). Massachusetts has 69 divisions of the District Court Department and 11 divisions of the Juvenile Court Department, which oversee juvenile cases. The increase of juvenile court divisions, from four to eleven, is due to the legislatively mandated statewide expansion of the Juvenile Court Department. In Massachusetts, four branches of the trial court currently play a role in the juvenile justice system. The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over delinquency, Children In Need of Services (CHINS), care and protection petitions, adult-contributing-to-the-delinquency-of-minor cases, adoption, guardianship, termination of parental rights proceedings, and youthful offender cases. The District Court also has jurisdiction over juvenile matters in the regions of the state without a Juvenile Court. On certain days, a district court judge sits in a separate courtroom and hears juvenile cases only. On regular court days, if a juvenile case is brought to the court, court officers clear the room of all observers to protect the juvenile’s privacy rights. The Superior Court has jurisdiction over some juvenile transfer cases. Lastly, the Probate Court has jurisdiction over civil actions concerning child abuse and neglect, as well as adjudicating divorce and custody matters between parents.

Overall, the total number of delinquency cases entered into Juvenile and District Courts in Massachusetts decreased by 14 percent from 1997 to 1998, and 3 percent from 1998 to 1999. However, delinquency cases entered in the Juvenile Courts increased 42 percent in 1998 and 76 percent in 1999 over the previous years, reflecting the recent increase in the number of juvenile courts. The juvenile delinquency cases entered in the District Courts decreased in 1998 by 29 percent over 1997 and by 45 percent in 1999 over 1998 (Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, 2000).

**Figure 2-1.**



Source: Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, 2000

While there was a substantial increase in the petitions filed and children represented in Care and Protection Cases in Juvenile Court in 1999 over 1998 (52 and 54 percent respectively, the number of Care and Protection cases received in the District Courts decreased 36 percent in 1999 (Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, 2000).

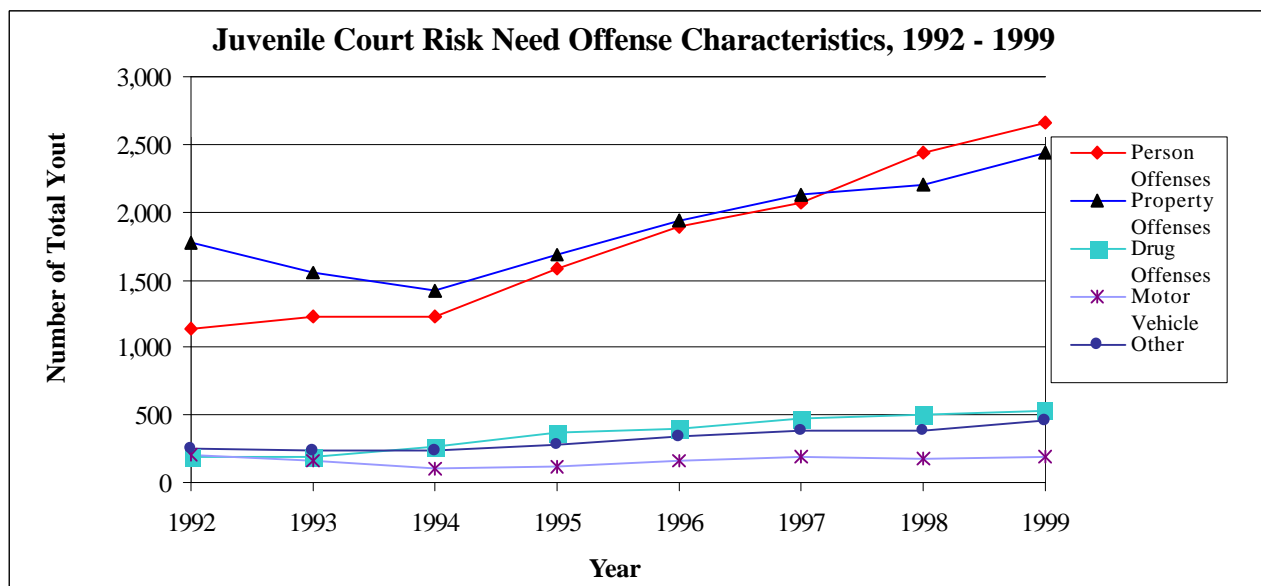
Overall, the total number of Children in Need of Services (CHINS) applications in the Juvenile and District Courts increased by 54 percent from 1998 to 1999. The number of CHINS applications in the Juvenile Court increased 39 percent in 1999. The number of CHINS applications received in the District Court decreased 45 percent in 1999 (Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, 2000).

## JUVENILE PROBATION

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation operates two levels of supervision for juvenile offenders: administrative probation and risk/need probation. The court may place conditions and various levels of supervision on adjudicated delinquents. The Research and Planning Department of the Office of the Commissioner of Probation provides data on the number of juveniles on probation each year. The statistics are divided into categories of offense characteristics by percentage of the total population.

In Fiscal Year 1999, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court reported 15,129 juveniles under probation supervision. The Office of the Commissioner of Probation provides detailed statistics for juvenile probationers based on the calendar year. As reported by the Office of the Commissioner of Probation, the percentage of juveniles (male and female) on probation for person offenses increased from 1992 to 1996, declined slightly in 1997, rose again in 1998, and remained steady in 1999. The percentage of youth on probation for property offenses has steadily decreased from 1992 to 1998, and remained unchanged in 1999. During this same time period, the percentage of juveniles on probation for drug offenses increased (6 to 9 percent), the percentage of juveniles on probation for motor vehicle theft decreased (6 to 3 percent), while the “Other” category has remained relatively stable.

**Figure 2-2.**



Source: Massachusetts Office of the Commissioner of Probation, 2000

The juvenile risk/need population has exhibited many of the behavioral dynamics that have been identified as contributing to delinquent behavior and escalating criminal behavior. Forty-three percent (43%) of male juveniles and almost one-third of female juveniles (31%) had a prior criminal record within the previous 5 years. Over three-quarters of the juvenile probationers were under the age of 15 years when they committed their first offense. Male and female juvenile probationers exhibit a similar degree of problems with school discipline, substance abuse, and peer relations. An overwhelming percentage of the male and female juvenile risk

need population also demonstrate a need for counseling (69% and 75% respectively) (Massachusetts Office of the Commissioner of Probation, 2000).

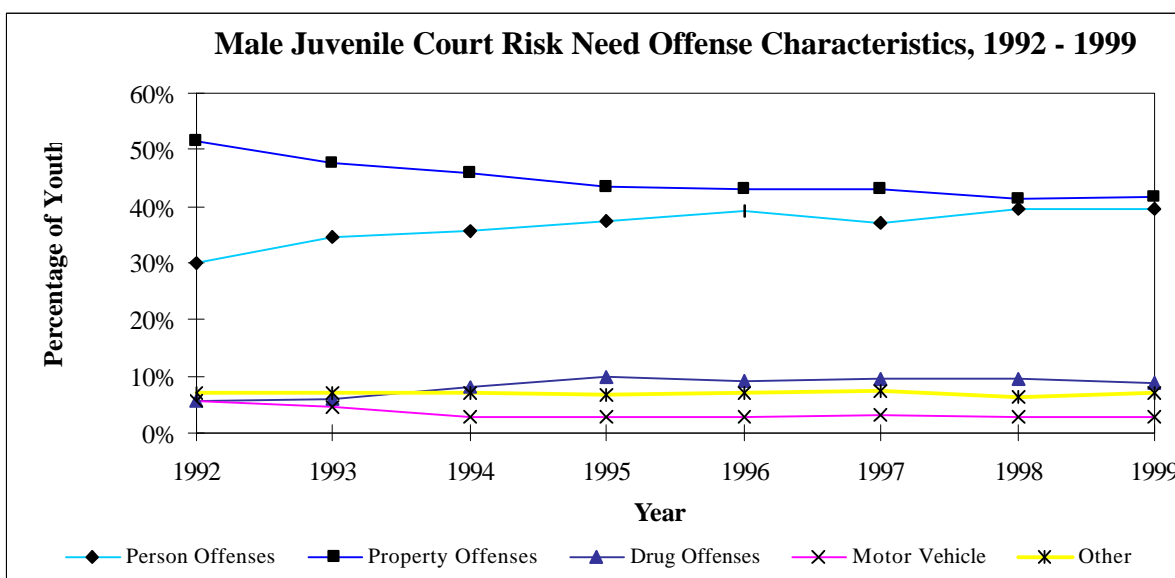
**Table 2-1. Problems Exhibited by the Juvenile Risk/Need Population, 1999**

Gender of Probationer	Prior Record Within the Past 5 Years	< 15 Years Old at First Offense	School Discipline Problem	Substance Abuse Problem	Peer Relation Problem	Counseling Need
Male	42.7%	80.3%	83.6%	62.9%	85.6%	69.1%
Female	31.4%	77.5%	86.3%	64.8%	82.8%	75.4%

Source: Massachusetts Office of the Commissioner of Probation, 2000

Between 1992 and 1999, the percentage of male juveniles receiving probation increased 66 percent, and increased 13 percent from 1998 to 1999. Between 1992 and 1999, the majority of crimes committed by juvenile males were property offenses, averaging 45 percent of the total crimes committed. In 1999, 42 percent of youth committed property offenses, representing a significant decline from 52 percent in 1992. From 1992 through 1999, the percentage of male juveniles that committed person offenses increased (30 to 39 percent).

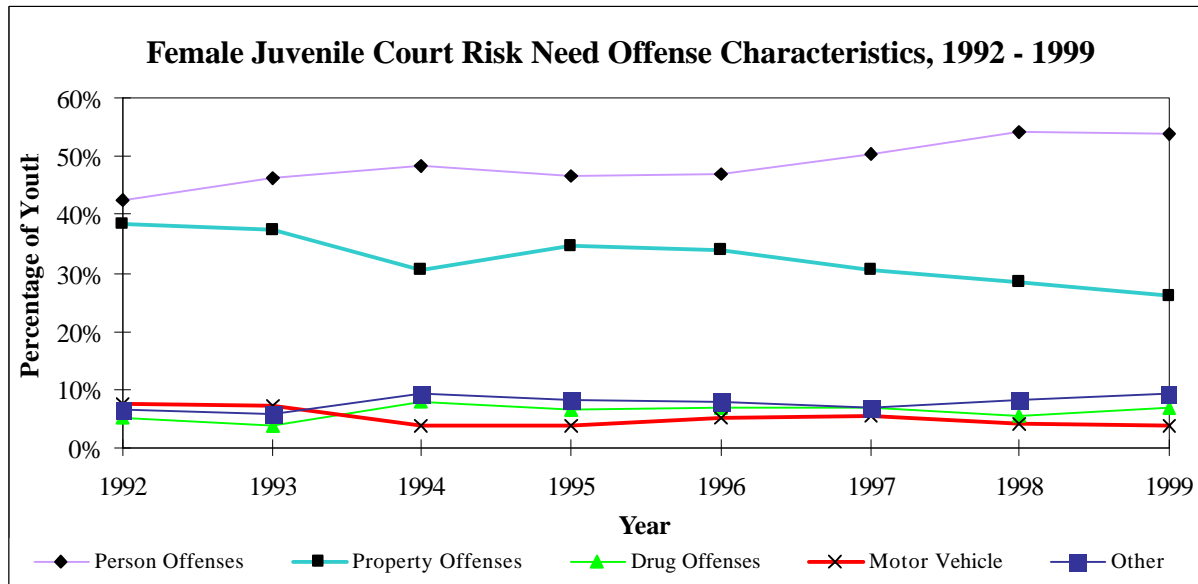
**Figure 2-3.**



Source: Massachusetts Office of the Commissioner of Probation, 2000

The number of female juveniles on probation increased from 1992 to 1999 by 142 percent. An examination of offenses by female juveniles from 1992 to 1999 indicates the majority of female probationers (54%) committed offenses against the person. Females receiving probation for offenses against the person has steadily increased from 43 percent in 1992, to 54 percent in 1999. From 1992 through 1994, the percentage of female juveniles receiving probation for property offenses decreased (38 to 31 percent), increased in 1995 (35%), and then continued a downward trend to 26 percent in 1999. The trend shows that the percentage of female juveniles on probation for person offenses and drug offenses continues to slowly increase while the percentage for females on probation for property offenses continues to slowly decline.

**Figure 2-4.**

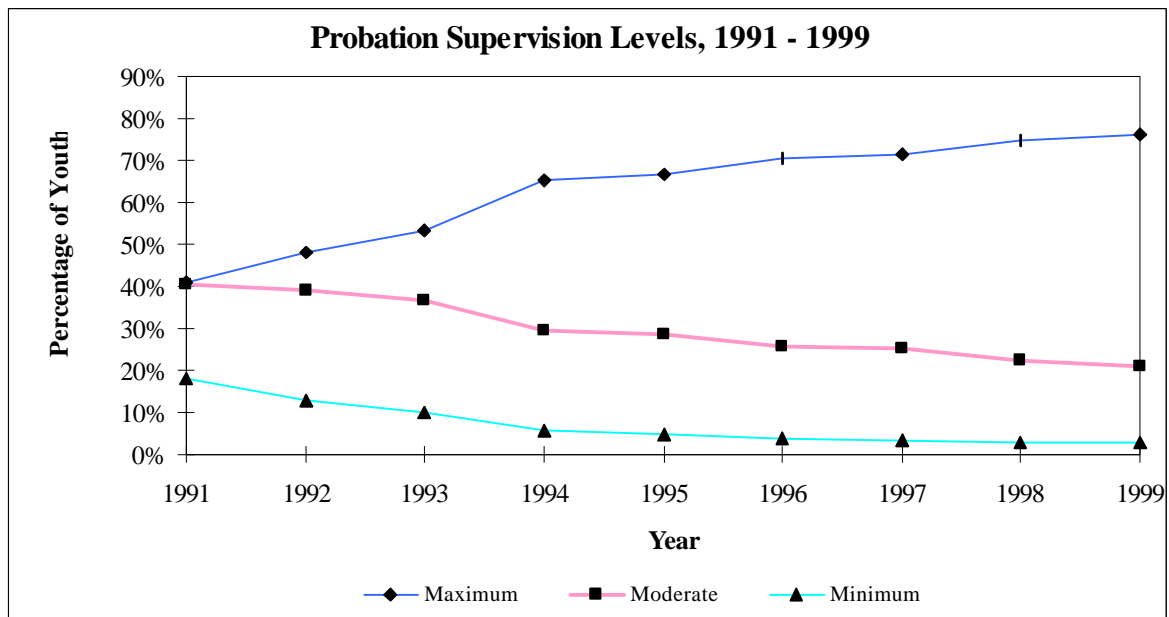


Source: Massachusetts Office of the Commissioner of Probation, 2000

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation provides data regarding the probation levels to which juveniles are assigned. The different levels indicate the level of contact the juvenile will receive with their probation officer. Maximum level probationers must meet with a probation officer every 2 weeks, Moderate level probationers are required to meet with a probation officer every 30 days, and Minimum level probationers have to meet with a probation officer every 90 days.

An examination of the data indicates the number of juvenile probationers with a Maximum level of supervision, has increased 35 percent in the years 1991 to 1999, while the levels Moderate and Minimum have decreased 20 and 15 percent respectively, during that same time period. The percentage of juveniles on probation with a maximum supervision level increased from 41 percent in 1991 to 76 percent in 1999. The percentage of juveniles on probation with a moderate level of supervision decreased from the 1991 level of 41 percent to 21 percent in 1999. The percentage of juveniles on probation with a minimum level of supervision decreased from 18 percent in 1991 to 3 percent in 1999.

**Figure 2-5.**



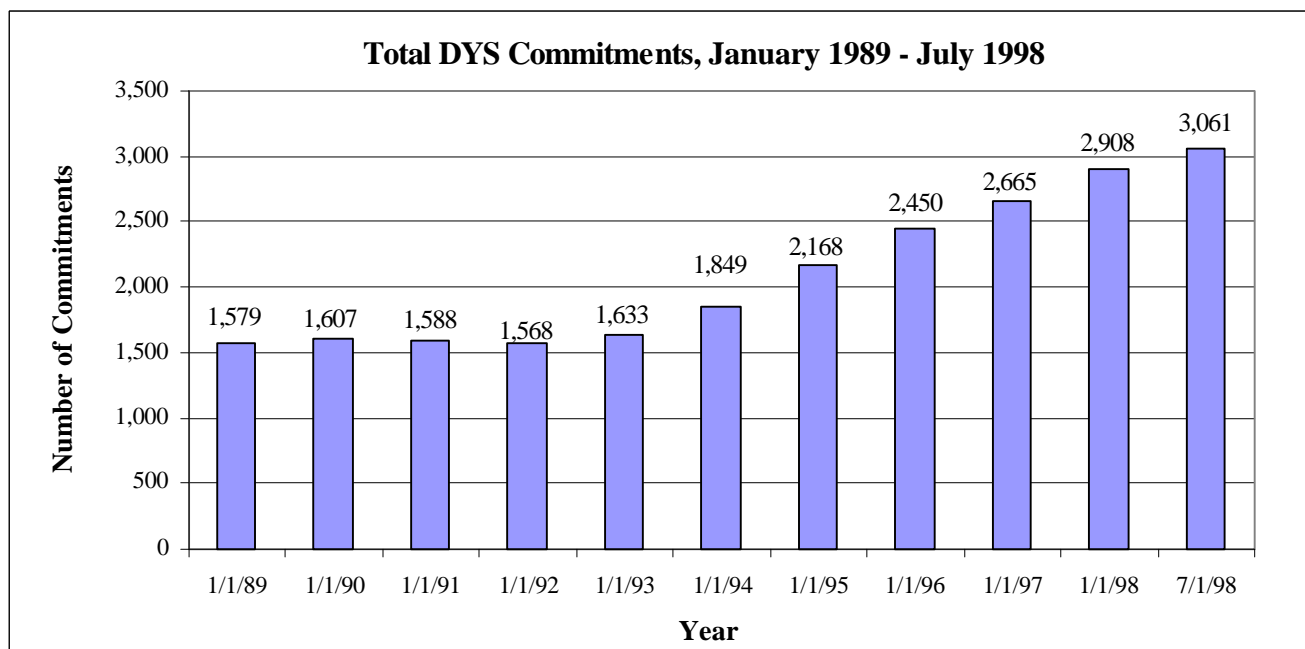
Source: Massachusetts Office of the Commissioner of Probation, 2000

## COMMITMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES (DYS)

The Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (DYS) is the juvenile correction agency for the Commonwealth. The agency professes its own dual mandate of community safety and the rehabilitation of adjudicated and committed juveniles, and operates 102 programs ranging from secure units to programs for youth serviced at home.

Commitments to the DYS increased 94 percent between 1989 and 1998. The number of commitments increased 15 percent in July 1998 from the previous 18 months. DYS reports that over half of the committed population (55%) were committed or recommitted to the department for a crime against the person. The population increase, between 1989 and 1998, may be attributed to three factors: the rise in the number of newly committed juveniles (830 to 1,413), an increase in the average length of commitment (23 months to 25 months), and a 385% increase in the number of juveniles whose commitment has been extended beyond their eighteenth birthday (Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, 1998).

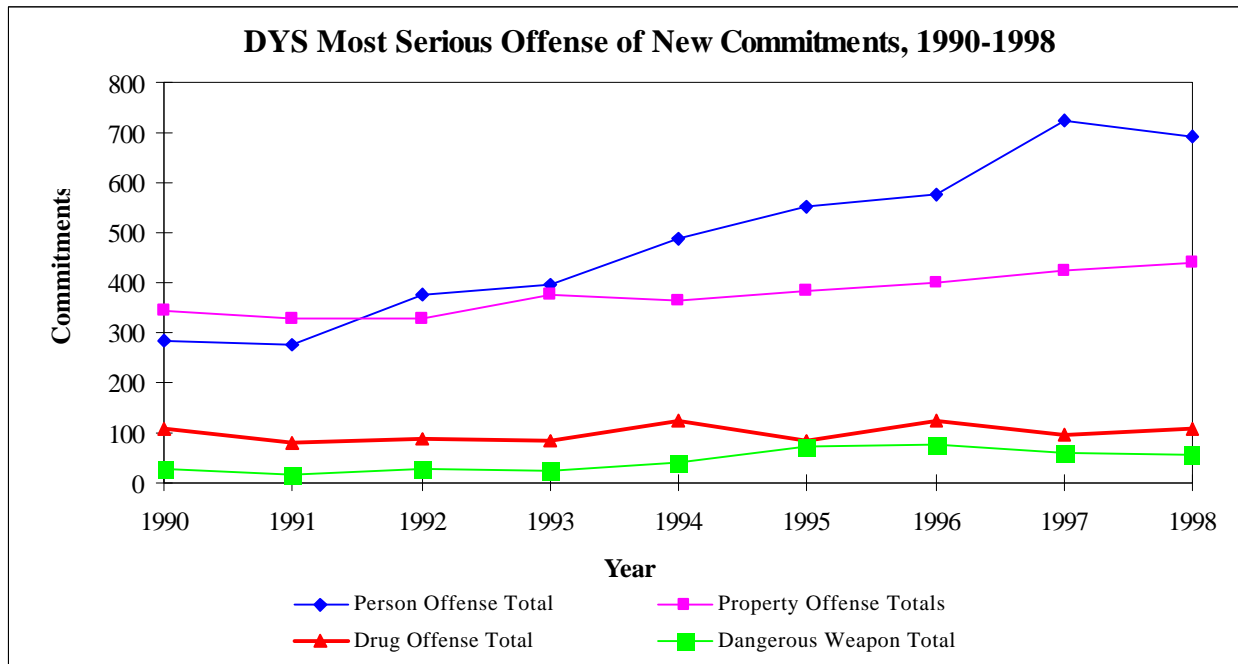
**Figure 2-6.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, 1998

According to the Massachusetts DYS, over the past five years, the largest number of commitments to DYS was for armed and unarmed assault. The ranking of the five highest commitments for 1998 were armed assault, unarmed assault, burglary, larceny, and drug distribution/possession. The number of commitments for offenses against persons decreased by 5 percent from January 1997 to July 1998, and commitments for property offenses increased by 3 percent. The number of commitments for drug offenses increased in July 1998 by 13 percent compared to January 1997 (Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, 1998).

**Figure 2-7.**

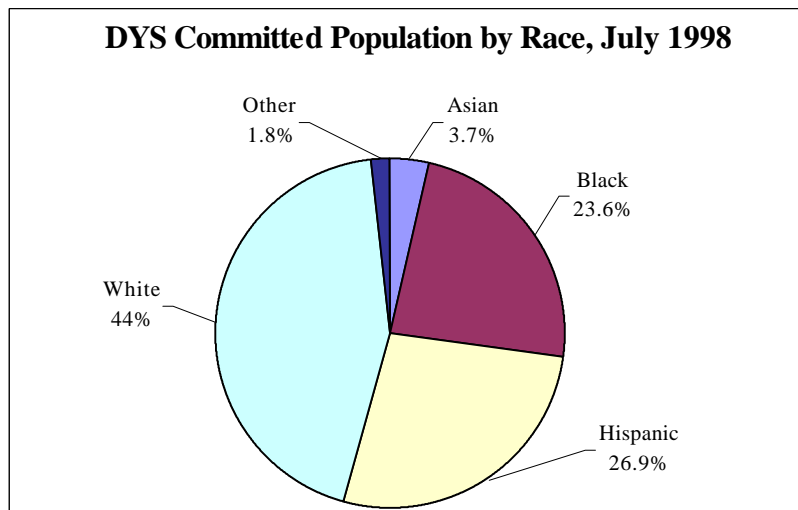


Source: Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, 1998

Between 1989 and 1998, on average, females represented 9.4 percent of total DYS commitments. This percentage has remained fairly constant during this period, fluctuating between 7 percent and 13 percent. The percent of females committed to DYS declined between 1989 and 1994 and then began to slowly increase to the current July 1998 figure. In 1998, 50 percent of committed females were white, 24 percent were African American, 22 percent were Hispanic, and 2 percent were Asian. The most serious offenses committed by females in 1998 were assault and battery (28 percent of the female population), followed by assault with a weapon (23 percent), larceny less than \$100 (9 percent), and robbery (4 percent) (Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, 1998).

In 1998, the breakdown of race for the DYS committed population was 54.2 percent minorities, 44 percent white, and 1.8 percent other. Hispanic youth accounted for the largest percentage (27%) of the minority population, followed by African American youth (24%) (Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, 1998).

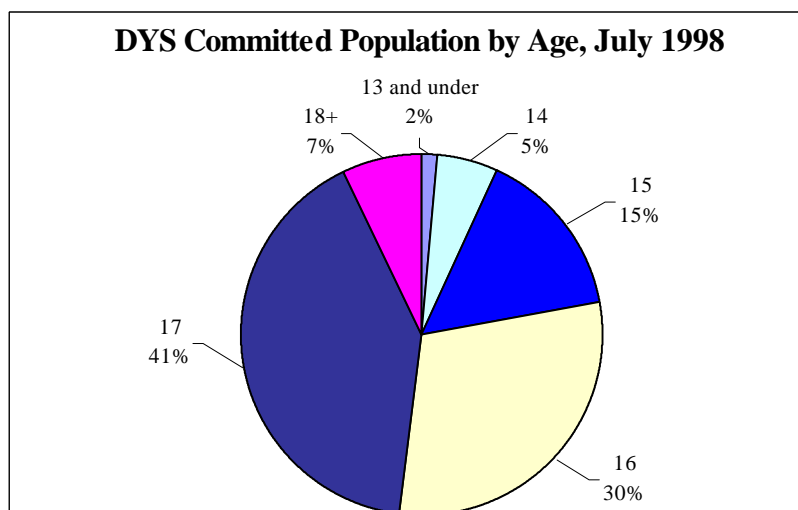
**Figure 2-8.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, 1998

As of July 1998, the average age of a youth committed to DYS was 16 years and 8 months. The majority of DYS committed youth (41%) were seventeen years old. Youth committed to DYS who were 18 to 22 years of age represented 7.2 percent of the population (Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, 1998).

**Figure 2-9.**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, 1998

# **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUVENILE CRIME**

## JUVENILE ARRESTS REPORTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Massachusetts' juvenile arrest data from all reporting law enforcement agencies for 1998 were provided by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division. Staff of the Statistical Analysis Center entered these data into the software application SPSS. In preparing the file for analysis, only those agencies that reported 12 months of data were selected for inclusion in the study. This analysis encompasses juveniles under the age of 18. Juvenile arrest rates were calculated using juvenile population estimates for each local community in Massachusetts according to age grouping (0-4, 5-9, 10-14, and 15-19 years old) from the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research (MISER). As this study only included youth through the age of 17, the population estimates for the 15-19 age group were divided by 5 (for each numeric age represented in the grouping) and then multiplied by 3, to obtain an estimated population for juveniles ages 15, 16, and 17. The resulting data was aggregated to determine county and statewide arrest totals and rates.

**Table 3-1. Communities Reporting Arrest Data to the Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit, 1998**

<b>County</b>	<b>Total Number of Communities</b>	<b>Number of Communities Reporting</b>	<b>Number of Communities Not Reporting</b>	<b>% of Communities Reporting</b>	<b>Total Agencies Reporting</b>
Barnstable	15	15	0	100%	16
Berkshire	32	11	21	34%	13
Bristol	20	20	0	100%	24
Dukes	7	3	4	43%	4
Essex	34	32	2	94%	35
Franklin	26	14	12	54%	15
Hampden	23	15	8	65%	17
Hampshire	20	11	9	55%	13
Middlesex	54	48	6	89%	56
Nantucket	1	1	0	100%	1
Norfolk	28	26	2	93%	28
Plymouth	27	23	4	85%	25
Suffolk	4	4	0	100%	12
Worcester	60	54	6	90%	59
<b>State Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>318</b>

## TOTAL JUVENILE PART I ARRESTS AND ARREST RATES

In 1998, Massachusetts police departments submitting Uniform Crime Report arrest data reported that 7,133 juveniles were arrested for Part I crimes, yielding an arrest rate of 619 per 100,000 juveniles. Sixty-two percent of juvenile Part I crime arrests were for property crimes and 38 percent were for violent crimes.

Franklin and Suffolk Counties had the first and second highest total juvenile Part I arrest rates within the Commonwealth, 1,507 and 1,041 respectively, surpassing the state rate. However, despite having the highest rate, the total number of juveniles arrested for total Part I crimes in Franklin County was 188, far below the 1,348 juveniles arrested in Suffolk County.

**Table 3-2.**

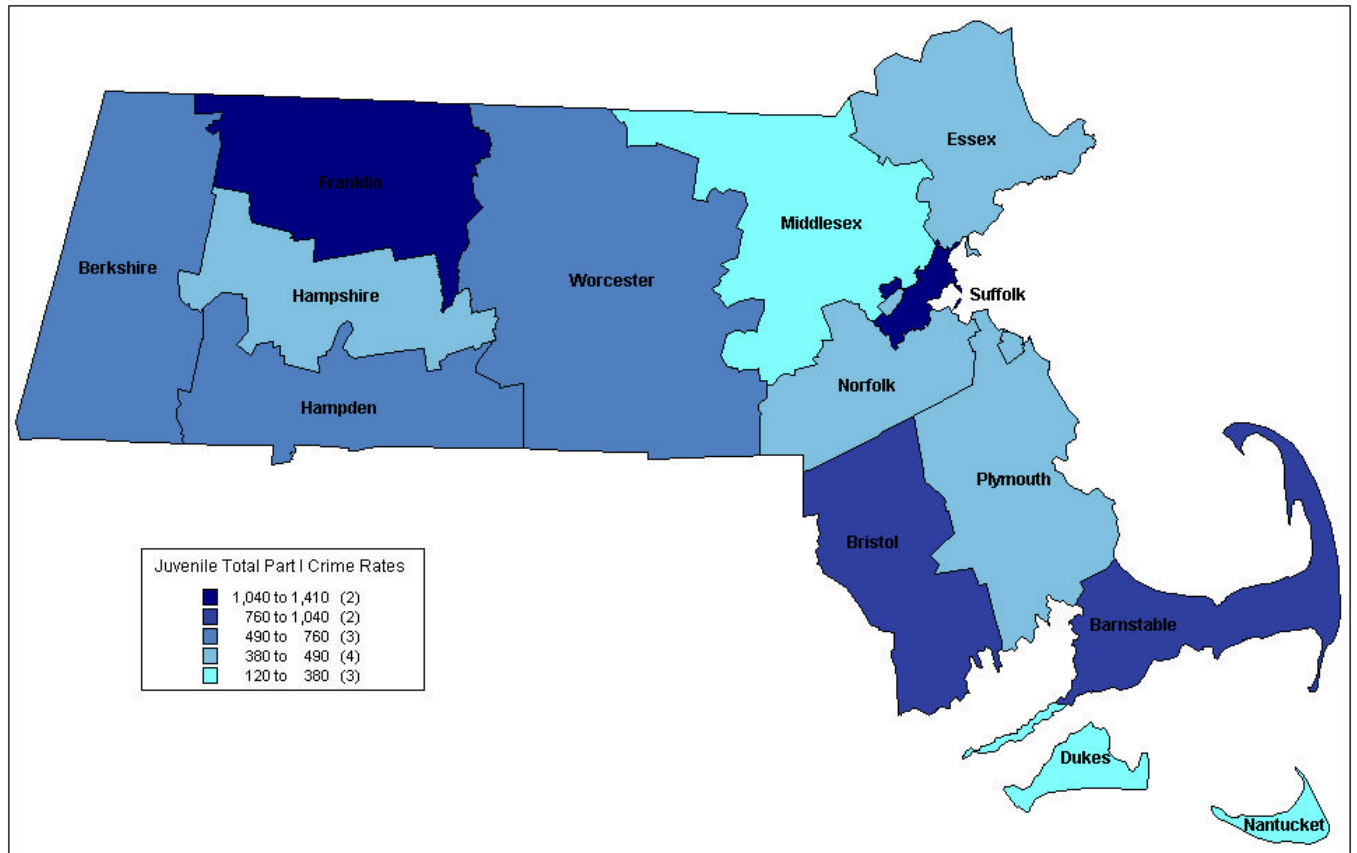
**Total Juvenile Part I Arrests and Arrest Rates**

County	Total Juvenile Part I Arrests	Juvenile Total Part I Arrest Rate	Total Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests	Total Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate	Total Juvenile Property Crime Arrests	Total Juvenile Property Crime Arrest Rate
Barnstable	332	795.7	110	263.6	222	532.0
Berkshire	134	556.0	44	182.6	90	373.5
Bristol	988	784.3	325	258.0	663	526.3
Dukes	6	270.6	0	.0	6	270.6
Essex	409	393.4	126	121.2	283	272.2
Franklin	188	1507.4	101	809.8	87	697.6
Hampden	856	791.3	288	266.2	568	525.1
Hampshire	113	429.7	35	133.1	78	296.6
Middlesex	688	332.2	240	115.9	448	216.3
Nantucket	2	121.5	0	.0	2	121.5
Norfolk	453	412.3	148	134.7	305	277.6
Plymouth	529	491.0	179	166.1	350	324.8
Suffolk	1348	1040.8	763	589.1	585	451.7
Worcester	1087	712.6	344	225.5	743	487.1
State totals	7133	618.5	2703	234.4	4430	384.1

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

**Figure 3-1.**

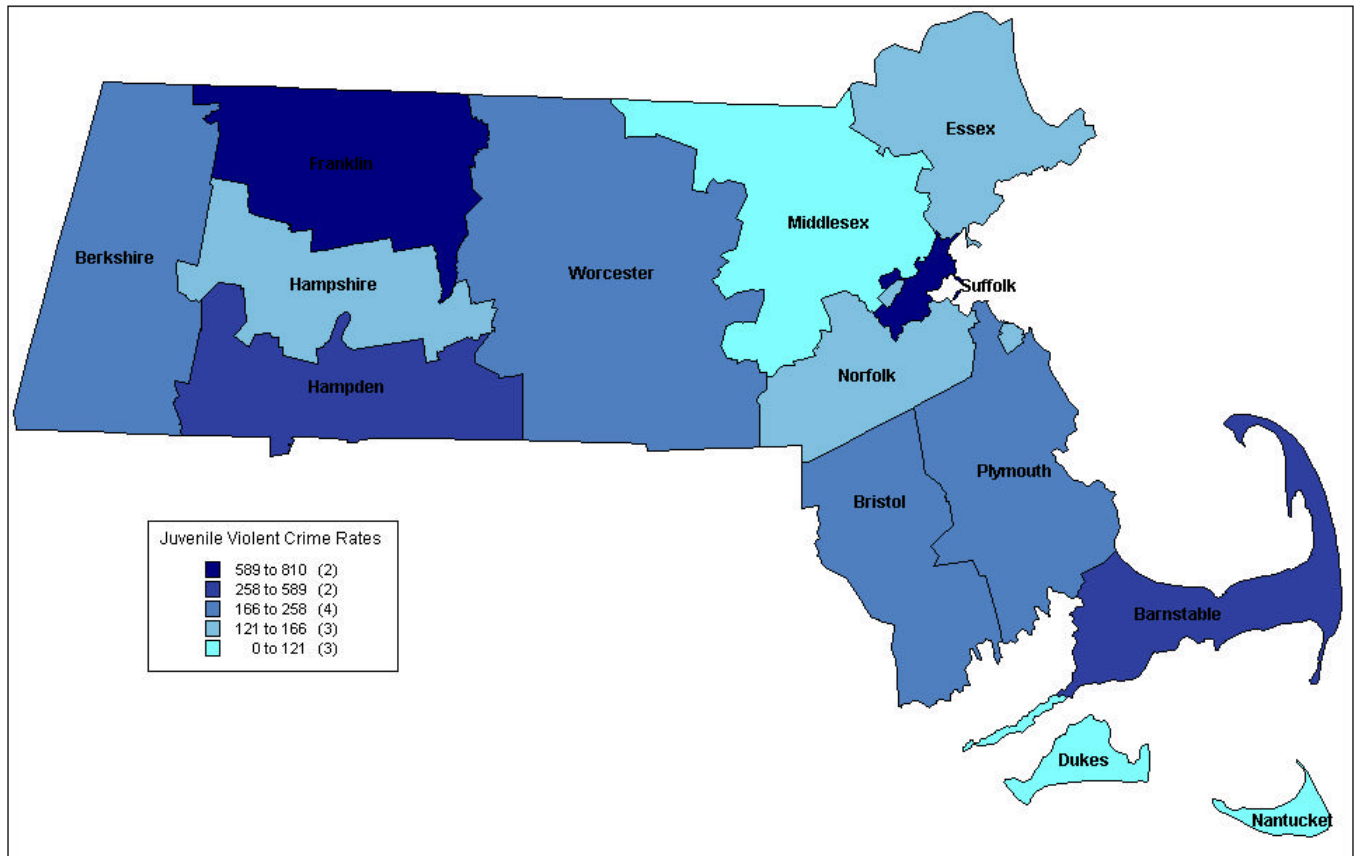
**Massachusetts Juvenile Total Part I Crime Rates by County, 1998**



**Total Violent Crime Arrests.** In the Commonwealth, a total of 2,703 juveniles were arrested for violent crimes. Franklin and Suffolk Counties had the first and second highest juvenile violent crime arrest rates, 810 and 589, respectively, and exceeded the total state rate of 234. Franklin County had a total of 101 juveniles arrested for violent crimes, significantly lower than the 763 juveniles arrested in Suffolk County.

**Figure 3-2.**

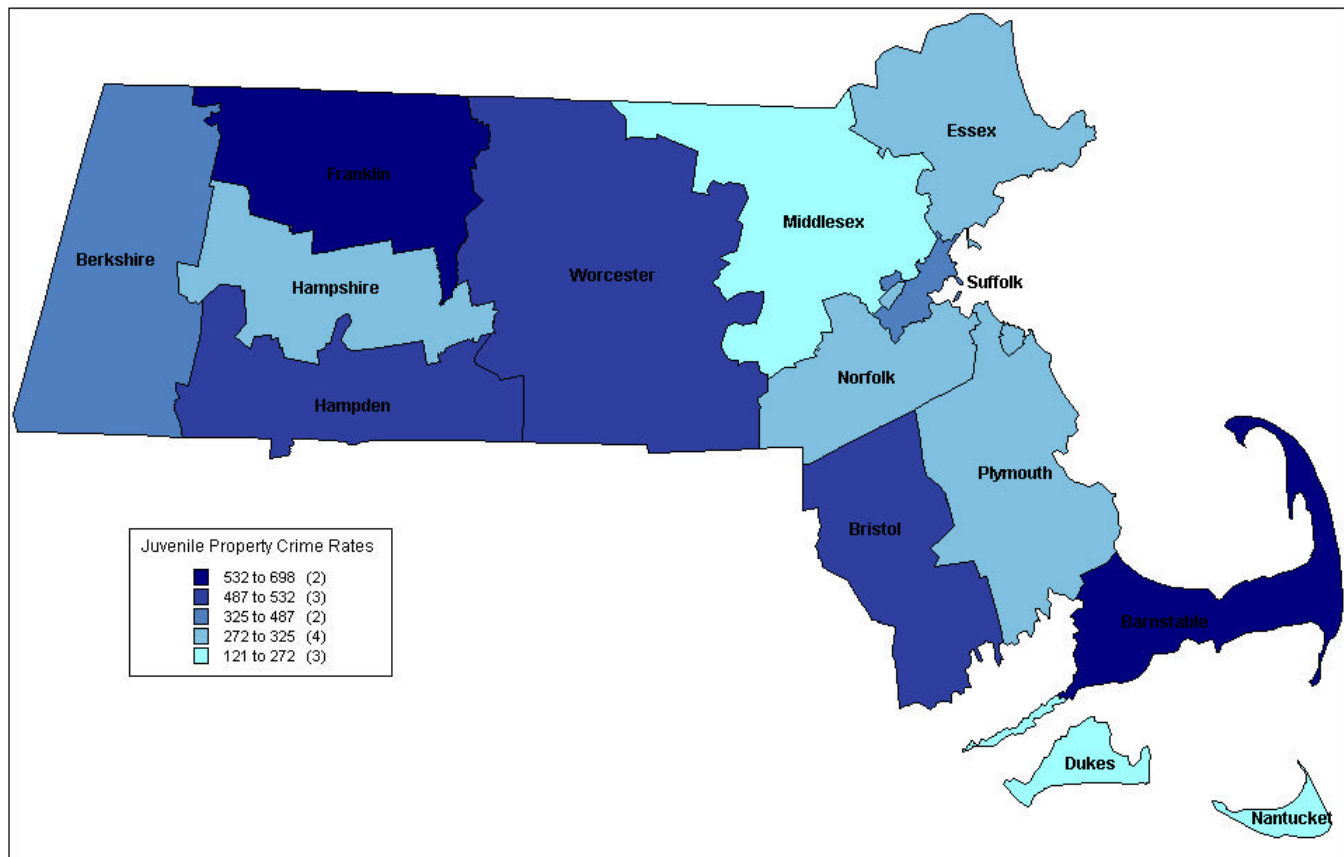
**Massachusetts Juvenile Violent Crime Rates by County, 1998**



**Total Property Crime Arrests.** The number of juveniles arrested in Massachusetts for property crimes totaled 4,430, representing a statewide arrest rate of 384 per 100,000 juveniles. Of the 14 counties in Massachusetts, Franklin County had the highest juvenile property crime arrest rate (698), followed by Barnstable County (532).

**Figure 3-3.**

### Massachusetts Juvenile Property Crime Rates by County, 1998



**Part I Crime Arrests by Race.** The race of juveniles arrested for Part I crimes was approximately 72 percent white, 23 percent African American, 3 percent Asian, and .1 percent American Indian.

In total, 5,164 white juveniles were arrested for Part I crimes in Massachusetts, an arrest rate of 448 per 100,000 juveniles (of all races). Worcester County had the largest number of white juveniles arrested (925), and the fourth highest arrest rate (606). The highest arrest rate for white juveniles was in Franklin County (1,323), where a total of 165 white juveniles were arrested.

A total of 1,646 African American youth were arrested for Part I offenses, for an arrest rate of 143 per 100,000 juveniles. Suffolk County had the highest number of Part I arrests and arrest rate for black juveniles in the Commonwealth, 814 and 629. Hampden County had the second highest number of Part I arrests and arrest rate, 169 and 156 per 100,000 juveniles, respectively.

Corresponding with the low American Indian youth population estimates in Massachusetts (0.2%), a total of 10 American Indian youth were arrested for Part I offenses in 1998, resulting in an arrest rate of 0.9 per 100,000 juveniles. The highest number of Part I arrests for American Indian juveniles occurred in Barnstable County (6), which also has the highest arrest rate at 14.4.

Asian juveniles accounted for 192 total Part I offenses in Massachusetts, for an arrest rate of 16.6 per 100,000 juveniles. The highest number of Part I arrests and arrest rate occurred in Suffolk County, 68 and 52.5. Hampshire County had the second highest arrest rate at 41.8 per 100,000 juveniles, and a total of 11 Asian juveniles arrested for Part I offenses.

**Table 3-3.**

**Juvenile Part I Arrests and Arrest Rates by Race**

County	White Juveniles Arrested for Part I Crimes	Juvenile White Part I Arrest Rate	Black Juveniles Arrested for Part I Crimes	Juvenile Black Part I Arrest Rate	American Indian or Alaskan Native Juveniles Arrested for Part I Crimes	Juvenile American Indian or Alaskan Native Part I Arrest Rate	Asian Juveniles Arrested for Part I Crimes	Juvenile Asian Part I Arrest Rate
Barnstable	281	673.4	44	105.4	6	14.4	0	.0
Berkshire	104	431.5	30	124.5	0	.0	0	.0
Bristol	900	714.4	66	52.4	0	.0	16	12.7
Dukes	4	180.4	2	90.2	0	.0	0	.0
Essex	364	350.1	24	23.1	0	.0	12	11.5
Franklin	165	1322.9	9	72.2	0	.0	1	8.0
Hampden	645	596.2	169	156.2	1	.9	4	3.7
Hampshire	89	338.5	13	49.4	0	.0	11	41.8
Middlesex	524	253.0	108	52.2	1	.5	14	6.8
Nantucket	2	121.5	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Norfolk	300	273.1	125	113.8	0	.0	27	24.6
Plymouth	396	367.5	124	115.1	1	.9	6	5.6
Suffolk	465	359.0	814	628.5	1	.8	68	52.5
Worcester	925	606.4	118	77.4	0	.0	33	21.6
State totals	5164	447.7	1646	142.7	10	.9	192	16.6

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

## JUVENILE VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS AND ARREST RATES

**Murder.** Of the four Massachusetts counties that reported arresting juveniles for murder, Hampshire County had the highest juvenile homicide arrest rate (3.8), and is higher than the state murder arrest rate of 0.5. However, only one juvenile was arrested for murder in Hampshire County, less than the number of juveniles arrested in Bristol (2) and Suffolk (2) Counties, and the state total (6).

**Rape.** Berkshire and Suffolk Counties had the first and second highest juvenile arrest rates for rape, of 20.7 and 13.9, respectively, both markedly higher than the state rate of 6.1 per 100,000 juveniles. Although Berkshire County had the highest arrest rate of all 14 counties, Suffolk County had the most juveniles (18) arrested for rape.

**Robbery.** Suffolk County overwhelmingly has the highest juvenile robbery arrest rate (130) in the Commonwealth, significantly higher than the state robbery arrest rate of 32.6. The total number of juveniles arrested for robbery in Suffolk County was 168, representing 45 percent of all juvenile arrests for robbery in the Commonwealth.

**Aggravated Assault.** The juvenile aggravated assault arrest rate was highest in Franklin County (802), and considerably higher than the state aggravated assault arrest rate of 195 per 100,000 juveniles. The total number of juveniles arrested for aggravated assault in Franklin County was 100, as compared to Suffolk County which had the highest number of juveniles arrested for aggravated assault (575), and the second highest arrest rate (444).

**Table 3-4.**

**Total Juvenile Part I Violent Crime Arrests and Arrest Rates**

County	Juvenile Arrests for Murder	Juvenile Murder Arrest Rate	Juvenile Arrests for Rape	Juvenile Rape Arrest Rate	Juvenile Arrests for Robbery	Juvenile Robbery Arrest Rate	Juvenile Arrests for Aggravated Assault	Juvenile Aggravated Assault Arrest Rate
Barnstable	0	.0	2	4.8	5	12.0	103	246.8
Berkshire	0	.0	5	20.7	9	37.3	30	124.5
Bristol	2	1.6	7	5.6	34	27.0	282	223.9
Dukes	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Essex	0	.0	2	1.9	16	15.4	108	103.9
Franklin	0	.0	1	8.0	0	.0	100	801.8
Hampden	1	.9	2	1.8	27	25.0	258	238.5
Hampshire	1	3.8	0	.0	8	30.4	26	98.9
Middlesex	0	.0	8	3.9	26	12.6	206	99.5
Nantucket	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Norfolk	0	.0	3	2.7	31	28.2	114	103.8
Plymouth	0	.0	6	5.6	21	19.5	152	141.1
Suffolk	2	1.5	18	13.9	168	129.7	575	444.0
Worcester	0	.0	16	10.5	31	20.3	297	194.7
<b>State totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>.5</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>2251</b>	<b>195.2</b>

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

## JUVENILE PROPERTY CRIME ARRESTS AND ARREST RATES

**Burglary.** In 1998, Barnstable County had the highest rate of juvenile burglary arrests (213), reflecting a total of 89 juveniles. While this represented only 8.4 percent of total burglary arrests in the Commonwealth, it far exceeded the state burglary arrest rate of 92 per 100,000 juveniles. Bristol County had the highest number of juveniles arrested for burglary (171), and represented the third highest juvenile burglary arrest rate (136) of the 14 counties.

**Larceny.** In total, 2,966 juveniles were arrested in Massachusetts for larceny. Franklin County had the highest juvenile larceny arrest rate at 449 per 100,000 juveniles. While this represented only 2 percent of total larceny arrests in the Commonwealth, it greatly exceeded the state larceny arrest rate of 257. Worcester County had the highest number of juveniles arrested for larceny (529) and an arrest rate of 347, placing it fourth overall statewide.

**Motor Vehicle Theft.** In total, 350 juveniles were arrested for motor vehicle theft in Massachusetts, which resulted in a statewide arrest rate of 30.3 per 100,000 juveniles. The juvenile motor vehicle theft arrest rate was highest in Hampshire County (53.2), yet this represented only 4 percent of total motor vehicle theft arrests in Massachusetts. The largest number of juvenile's arrested for motor vehicle theft was in Worcester County (63), which had the second highest motor vehicle theft arrest rate (41.3) in the Commonwealth.

**Arson.** A total of 54 juveniles were arrested statewide for arson, or 4.7 juveniles per 100,000. Franklin County overwhelmingly exceeded the state arrest rate for arson at 32.1, with 4 juvenile arrests for arson. The largest number of juveniles arrested for arson was in Bristol County (10); however, it ranked third of the 14 counties in arson arrest rates.

**Table 3-5.**

**Juvenile Part I Property Crime Arrests and Arrest Rates**

County	Juvenile Arrests for Burglary	Juvenile Burglary Arrest Rate	Juvenile Arrests for Larceny	Juvenile Larceny Arrest Rate	Juvenile Arrests for Motor Vehicle Theft	Juvenile Motor Vehicle Theft Arrest Rate	Juvenile Arrests for Arson	Juvenile Arson Arrest Rate
Barnstable	89	213.3	121	290.0	9	21.6	3	7.2
Berkshire	26	107.9	60	249.0	4	16.6	0	.0
Bristol	171	135.7	438	347.7	44	34.9	10	7.9
Dukes	1	45.1	5	225.5	0	.0	0	.0
Essex	73	70.2	171	164.5	30	28.9	9	8.7
Franklin	25	200.4	56	449.0	2	16.0	4	32.1
Hampden	131	121.1	387	357.7	43	39.7	7	6.5
Hampshire	21	79.9	41	155.9	14	53.2	2	7.6
Middlesex	95	45.9	296	142.9	46	22.2	9	4.3
Nantucket	1	60.8	1	60.8	0	.0	0	.0
Norfolk	59	53.7	213	193.9	32	29.1	1	.9
Plymouth	88	81.7	222	206.0	38	35.3	2	1.9
Suffolk	134	103.5	426	328.9	25	19.3	0	.0
Worcester	144	94.4	529	346.8	63	41.3	7	4.6
<b>State totals</b>	<b>1058</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>2966</b>	<b>257.2</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>4.7</b>

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

## TOTAL JUVENILE DRUG ARRESTS AND ARREST RATES

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In total, 2,275 juveniles were arrested for drug violations in Massachusetts in 1998, representing a drug arrest rate of 197.3 juveniles per 100,000. Suffolk County had the highest number of juvenile drug arrests (429) and the highest corresponding juvenile drug arrest rate (331). Hampden County experienced the second highest juvenile arrest rate for drug violations with 324 arrests and an arrest rate of 300 per 100,000 juveniles.

**Table 3-6.**

**Total Juvenile Drug Arrests and Arrest Rates**

County	Juvenile Total Drug Offense Arrests	Total Juvenile Drug Offense Arrest Rate
Barnstable	120	287.6
Berkshire	40	166.0
Bristol	207	164.3
Dukes	4	180.4
Essex	184	177.0
Franklin	35	280.6
Hampden	324	299.5
Hampshire	27	102.7
Middlesex	273	131.8
Nantucket	1	60.8
Norfolk	135	122.9
Plymouth	200	185.6
Suffolk	429	331.2
Worcester	296	194.0
State totals	2275	197.3

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

## JUVENILE DRUG SALE AND MANUFACTURING ARRESTS AND ARREST RATES

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Statewide, a total of 506 juveniles were arrested for the sale and manufacturing of drugs in 1998, representing an arrest rate of 43.9 per 100,000 juveniles. Suffolk County overwhelmingly had the highest juvenile arrest rate (155) for drug sale and manufacturing, over three times higher than the statewide arrest rate, as well as the largest number of juveniles arrested for drug sale and manufacturing (201).

**Opium, Cocaine, and Derivatives.** In total, 259 juveniles were arrested in the Commonwealth for the sale and manufacturing of opium, cocaine, and derivatives, which resulted in an arrest rate of 22.5 per 100,000. Suffolk County had the highest juvenile arrests and arrest rate for the sale and manufacturing of opium, cocaine, and derivatives, 112 and 86.5, respectively.

**Marijuana.** In 1998, the highest number of juvenile arrests for the sale and manufacturing of marijuana occurred in Suffolk County, representing 38 percent of the total marijuana arrests in Massachusetts. Suffolk County also experienced the highest corresponding arrest rate of juveniles in the Commonwealth for the sale and manufacturing of marijuana, 67.2 in Suffolk County as compared to 19.9 statewide.

**Synthetic Narcotics.** Law enforcement agencies reported only three juveniles were arrested for the sale and manufacturing of synthetic narcotics, representing a state rate of 0.3 per 100,000 youth. One juvenile was arrested in Barnstable County and two were arrested in Suffolk County.

**Other Drugs.** With regard to the sale and manufacturing of “other” drugs by juveniles, the total number of arrests made in Massachusetts was 15, or 1.3 per 100,000. Worcester County had the highest arrest rate at 4.6, and a total of 7 juveniles arrested.

Table 3-7.

**Juvenile Drug Sale and Manufacturing Arrests and Arrest Rates**

County	Juvenile Total Drug Sale and Manufacturing Arrests	Total Juvenile Drug Sale and Manufacturing Arrest Rate	Juvenile Sale and Manufacturing Opium, Cocaine, and Derivatives Arrests	Juvenile Drug Sale and Manufacturing Opium, Cocaine, and Derivatives Arrest Rate	Juvenile Sale and Manufacturing Marijuana Arrests	Juvenile Drug Sale and Manufacturing Marijuana Arrest Rate	Juvenile Sale and Manufacturing Synthetic Narcotics Arrests	Juvenile Drug Sale and Manufacturing Synthetic Narcotics Arrest Rate	Juvenile Sale and Manufacturing Other Drugs Arrests	Juvenile Drug Sale and Manufacturing Other Drugs Arrest Rate
Barnstable	15	35.9	0	.0	14	33.6	1	2.4	0	.0
Berkshire	3	12.4	3	12.4	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Bristol	40	31.8	15	11.9	25	19.8	0	.0	0	.0
Dukes	1	45.1	0	.0	1	45.1	0	.0	0	.0
Essex	19	18.3	4	3.8	13	12.5	0	.0	2	1.9
Franklin	1	8.0	0	.0	1	8.0	0	.0	0	.0
Hampden	78	72.1	46	42.5	32	29.6	0	.0	0	.0
Hampshire	4	15.2	2	7.6	2	7.6	0	.0	0	.0
Middlesex	20	9.7	6	2.9	10	4.8	0	.0	4	1.9
Nantucket	1	60.8	1	60.8	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Norfolk	11	10.0	3	2.7	7	6.4	0	.0	1	.9
Plymouth	35	32.5	21	19.5	13	12.1	0	.0	1	.9
Suffolk	201	155.2	112	86.5	87	67.2	2	1.5	0	.0
Worcester	77	50.5	46	30.2	24	15.7	0	.0	7	4.6
<b>State totals</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1.3</b>

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

## **JUVENILE DRUG POSSESSION ARRESTS AND ARREST RATES**

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During 1998, a total of 1,596 juveniles were arrested for drug possession in Massachusetts, resulting in an arrest rate of 138 per 100,000 juveniles. Barnstable County reported a total of 103 juvenile arrests for drug possession and had the highest juvenile drug possession arrest rate at 247. In comparison, Hampden County had the largest number of juveniles arrested for drug possession (231) and the third highest arrest rate at 214. There were no reported juvenile drug possession arrests in Nantucket County.

**Opium, Cocaine, and Derivatives.** The number of juveniles arrested for possession of opium, cocaine, and derivatives totaled 123 statewide, for an arrest rate of 10.7 per 100,000. Hampden County has the highest number of juvenile's arrested for possession of opium, cocaine, and derivatives (36) and the second highest arrest rate at 33.3, over three times the state arrest rate.

**Marijuana.** In total, 1,420 juveniles were arrested for possession of marijuana statewide, representing an arrest rate of 123 per 100,000. While Suffolk County reported the most juveniles arrested for possession of marijuana (198), it ranked fourth overall in arrest rates for marijuana possession (153). Barnstable County, which had the highest arrest rate in the Commonwealth at 216 per 100,000 juveniles, had a total of 90 juvenile's arrested for possession of marijuana.

**Synthetic Narcotics.** Statewide, juvenile arrests for possession of synthetic narcotics totaled 11 in 1998, reflecting an arrest rate of 1 juvenile per 100,000. Barnstable and Essex Counties each arrested 3 juveniles for possession of synthetic narcotics.

**Other Drugs.** Juveniles arrested for possession of other drugs totaled 45 statewide, for an arrest rate of 3.9 per 100,000. Plymouth County had the highest number of arrests and arrest rate for juvenile possession of other drugs, 16 and 14.9, respectively.

Table 3-8.

Juvenile Drug Possession Arrests and Arrest Rates

County	Juvenile Total Drug Possession Arrests	Total Juvenile Drug Possession Arrest Rate	Juvenile Possession of Opium, Cocaine, and Derivatives Arrests	Juvenile Drug Possession Opium, Cocaine, and Derivatives Arrest Rate	Juvenile Possession of Marijuana Arrests	Juvenile Drug Possession Marijuana Arrest Rate	Juvenile Possession of Synthetic Narcotics Arrests	Juvenile Drug Possession Synthetic Narcotics Arrest Rate	Juvenile Possession of Other Drugs Arrests	Juvenile Drug Possession Other Drugs Arrest Rate
Barnstable	103	246.8	5	12.0	90	215.7	3	7.2	5	12.0
Berkshire	35	145.2	5	20.7	30	124.5	0	.0	0	.0
Bristol	156	123.8	7	5.6	145	115.1	0	.0	4	3.2
Dukes	3	135.3	1	45.1	2	90.2	0	.0	0	.0
Essex	151	145.2	10	9.6	129	124.1	3	2.9	9	8.7
Franklin	28	224.5	1	8.0	25	200.4	1	8.0	1	8.0
Hampden	231	213.5	36	33.3	193	178.4	1	.9	1	.9
Hampshire	22	83.7	3	11.4	20	76.1	0	.0	0	.0
Middlesex	203	98.0	5	2.4	193	93.2	1	.5	4	1.9
Nantucket	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Norfolk	76	69.2	2	1.8	74	67.4	0	.0	0	.0
Plymouth	149	138.3	7	6.5	126	116.9	0	.0	16	14.9
Suffolk	228	176.0	28	21.6	198	152.9	1	.8	1	.8
Worcester	211	138.3	13	8.5	195	127.8	1	.7	4	2.6
State totals	1596	138.4	123	10.7	1420	123.1	11	1.0	45	3.9

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

## JUVENILE WEAPON POSSESSION ARRESTS AND ARREST RATES

In 1998, 198 juveniles were arrested in Massachusetts for carrying or possessing a weapon, representing an arrest rate equaling 17.2 per 100,000 juveniles. Suffolk County reported the largest number of juvenile arrests and the highest arrest rate for carrying and possessing weapons, 76 and 58.7, respectively. Hampden County ranked second in the number of juvenile arrests and the arrest rate for carrying and possessing weapons, 28 and 25.9 respectively. Nantucket County reported having no juvenile arrests for weapon possession. While there were also no reported juvenile arrests for weapon possession in Franklin County, twelve communities in Franklin County did not submit arrest data.

**Table 3-9.**

**Juvenile Weapon Arrests and Arrest Rates**

County	Juvenile Weapon Possession Arrests	Juvenile Weapon Possession Arrest Rate
Barnstable	2	4.8
Berkshire	3	12.4
Bristol	12	9.5
Dukes	0	.0
Essex	12	11.5
Franklin	0	.0
Hampden	28	25.9
Hampshire	3	11.4
Middlesex	10	4.8
Nantucket	0	.0
Norfolk	10	9.1
Plymouth	21	19.5
Suffolk	76	58.7
Worcester	21	13.8
<b>State totals</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>17.2</b>

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

## TOTAL JUVENILE PART II ARRESTS AND ARREST RATES

During 1998, a total of 13,988 juveniles were arrested in Massachusetts for Part II offenses, an arrest rate of 1,213 per 100,000 juveniles. Franklin County had the highest arrest rate at 3,079, for a total of 384 juvenile arrests for all Part II offenses. Worcester County had the highest arrest volume for juvenile Part II offenses (2,160), but ranked fifth in the state with regard to arrest rates (1,416). Hampden County ranked second in the total number of arrests made and the corresponding arrest rate for juvenile Part II offenses, 2,015 and 1,863, respectively.

**Table 3-10.**

**Total Juvenile Part II Arrests and Arrest Rates**

County	Total Juvenile Part II Arrests	Juvenile Total Part II Arrest Rate
Barnstable	676	1620.1
Berkshire	365	1514.6
Bristol	1707	1355.0
Dukes	20	902.1
Essex	1050	1009.9
Franklin	384	3078.8
Hampden	2015	1862.7
Hampshire	238	905.1
Middlesex	1435	692.9
Nantucket	3	182.3
Norfolk	1064	968.5
Plymouth	1316	1221.4
Suffolk	1555	1200.6
Worcester	2160	1415.9
<b>State totals</b>	<b>13988</b>	<b>1212.8</b>

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

**Part II Crime Arrests by Race.** The race of juveniles arrested for Part II crimes was approximately 83 percent white, 15 percent African American, 1 percent Asian, and .2 percent American Indian.

In total, 11,456 white juveniles were arrested in Massachusetts for Part II offenses, resulting in an arrest rate of 993 per 100,000 juveniles. Worcester County had the largest number of white juveniles arrested for Part II crimes (1,915), and an arrest rate of 1,255, which is the fifth highest in the state. In Franklin County, a total of 352 white juveniles were arrested for Part II offenses; however, this is the highest white juvenile arrest rate for Part II offenses (2,822) in the Commonwealth.

A total of 2,105 African American juveniles were arrested for Part II crimes, for an arrest rate of 183 per 100,000 juveniles. The largest number of arrests occurred in Suffolk County (836), which also had the highest arrest rate of 646 per 100,000 juveniles. Hampden County had the second largest number of black youth arrests and arrest rate for Part II crimes, 364 and 337 per 100,000 juveniles.

Plymouth County reported the highest number of Part II arrests of American Indian juveniles (13), representing half of the state total (26). It also has the highest corresponding arrest rate for American Indian juvenile Part II crimes (12.1), as compared to the statewide arrest rate of 2.3 per 100,000 juveniles.

The number of Asian juveniles arrested in Massachusetts for Part II offenses totaled 147, representing an arrest rate of 12.7 per 100,000 juveniles. Suffolk County had the highest number of Part II crime arrests of Asian juveniles totaling 51, and the second highest arrest rate (39.4).

**Table 3-11.**

**Juvenile Part II Arrests and Arrest Rates by Race**

County	White Juveniles Arrested for Part II Crimes	Juvenile White Part II Arrest Rate	Black Juveniles Arrested for Part II Crimes	Juvenile Black Part II Arrest Rate	American Indian or Alaskan Native Juveniles Arrested for Part II Crimes	Juvenile American Indian or Alaskan Native Part II Arrest Rate	Asian Juveniles Arrested for Part II Crimes	Juvenile Asian Part II Arrest Rate
Barnstable	614	1471.5	53	127.0	4	9.6	1	2.4
Berkshire	332	1377.6	30	124.5	0	.0	0	.0
Bristol	1553	1232.8	105	83.4	0	.0	10	7.9
Dukes	19	857.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Essex	999	960.8	37	35.6	1	1.0	9	8.7
Franklin	352	2822.3	18	144.3	0	.0	5	40.1
Hampden	1553	1435.6	364	336.5	1	.9	4	3.7
Hampshire	223	848.0	8	30.4	1	3.8	3	11.4
Middlesex	1271	613.7	82	39.6	2	1.0	6	2.9
Nantucket	3	182.3	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Norfolk	920	837.4	130	118.3	0	.0	10	9.1
Plymouth	1035	960.6	259	240.4	13	12.1	3	2.8
Suffolk	667	515.0	836	645.5	1	.8	51	39.4
Worcester	1915	1255.3	183	120.0	3	2.0	45	29.5
<b>State totals</b>	<b>11456</b>	<b>993.3</b>	<b>2105</b>	<b>182.5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>12.7</b>

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

## JUVENILE PART II ARRESTS AND ARREST RATES

**Driving Under the Influence.** In the state of Massachusetts, 164 juveniles have been arrested for driving under the influence (DUI), resulting in an arrest rate of 14.2 per 100,000 juveniles. Barnstable County reported the highest juvenile arrest rate for DUI (43.1), where a total of 18 juveniles were arrested for driving under the influence. Worcester County had the majority of juvenile arrests (31) for driving under the influence and the second highest arrest rate at 20.3.

**Liquor Law Violations.** The total number of juveniles arrested for liquor law violations in Massachusetts for 1998 was 1,481, for an arrest rate of 128 juveniles per 100,000 juveniles. Franklin County had the highest arrest rate for this offense at 425, yet a relatively small number of juvenile arrests (53). Middlesex County had the largest number of total juvenile arrests (337), yet it ranked fifth in the overall arrest rate (163).

**Drunkenness.** In Massachusetts, 438 juveniles were arrested for drunkenness in 1998, for an arrest rate of 38.0 per 100,000 juveniles. Juvenile arrests for drunkenness were highest in Barnstable County (89), which also had the highest arrest rate (213). Norfolk County ranked second in the number of arrests and arrest rate for drunkenness, 75 and 68.3, respectively.

**Disorderly Conduct.** A total of 1,516 juveniles were arrested for disorderly conduct in Massachusetts in 1998, with an arrest rate of 131. Worcester County had the highest number of juveniles arrested for disorderly conduct (288), and an arrest rate of 189, ranking third in the state. Franklin County reported a total of 43 juvenile arrests for disorderly conduct. Despite this relatively low number, the arrest rate was the state's highest at 345, two and a half times the state arrest rate of 131.

**Table 3-12.**

**Juvenile Part II Arrests and Arrest Rates**

County	Juvenile Driving Under the Influence Arrests	Juvenile Driving Under the Influence Arrest Rate	Juvenile Liquor Law Violation Arrests	Juvenile Liquor Law Violation Arrest Rate	Juvenile Drunkenness Arrests	Juvenile Drunkenness Arrest Rate	Juvenile Disorderly Conduct Arrests	Juvenile Disorderly Conduct Arrest Rate
Barnstable	18	43.1	115	275.6	89	213.3	50	119.8
Berkshire	3	12.4	24	99.6	7	29.0	47	195.0
Bristol	20	15.9	159	126.2	42	33.3	179	142.1
Dukes	0	.0	6	270.6	0	.0	0	.0
Essex	15	14.4	148	142.3	40	38.5	150	144.3
Franklin	1	8.0	53	424.9	3	24.1	43	344.8
Hampden	17	15.7	104	96.1	29	26.8	146	135.0
Hampshire	1	3.8	18	68.5	11	41.8	19	72.3
Middlesex	19	9.2	337	162.7	51	24.6	115	55.5
Nantucket	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Norfolk	16	14.6	177	161.1	75	68.3	66	60.1
Plymouth	20	18.6	151	140.1	35	32.5	164	152.2
Suffolk	3	2.3	30	23.2	0	.0	249	192.3
Worcester	31	20.3	159	104.2	56	36.7	288	188.8
State totals	164	14.2	1481	128.4	438	38.0	1516	131.4

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

**Offenses against Family and Children.** In 1998, the state total for juveniles arrested for offenses against family and children was 198, with an arrest rate of 17.2 per 100,000. Barnstable County, which arrested 23 juveniles for this offense, had the highest arrest rate (55.1). In contrast, Middlesex County had the highest volume of juveniles arrested for offenses against the family and children (49); however, its arrest rate was 23.7 and ranks fourth overall.

**Vagrancy.** Statewide, a total of 33 juveniles were arrested for vagrancy in 1998, representing 2.9 juveniles per 100,000. The highest number of arrests occurred in Hampden County (10), which also has the highest arrest rate (9.2).

**Suspicion.** Suspicion arrests do not entail a specific offense and the suspect is released without formal charges being placed (Uniform Crime Reports, 1998). In total, 56 juveniles were held for suspicion, resulting in a rate of 4.9 per 100,000 juveniles. Essex County had the highest number of juvenile arrests and arrest rates for suspicion, 25 and 24, respectively.

**All Other Offenses.** In the category of "all other offenses," a total of 3,928 juveniles were arrested in Massachusetts during 1998, generating an arrest rate of 341 per 100,000. The largest number of arrests occurred in Hampden County (1,032), which also had the highest arrest rate (954).

**Table 3-13.**

**Juvenile Part II Arrests and Arrest Rates**

County	Juvenile Offenses Against Family and Children Arrests	Juvenile Offenses Against Family and Children Arrest Rate	Juvenile Vagrancy Arrests	Juvenile Vagrancy Arrest Rate	Juvenile Suspicion Arrests	Juvenile Suspicion Arrest Rate	Juvenile All Other Offenses Arrests	Juvenile All Other Offenses Arrest Rate
Barnstable	23	55.1	0	.0	1	2.4	73	174.9
Berkshire	1	4.1	0	.0	0	.0	129	535.3
Bristol	4	3.2	1	.8	0	.0	469	372.3
Dukes	1	45.1	0	.0	0	.0	2	90.2
Essex	23	22.1	6	5.8	25	24.0	310	298.2
Franklin	2	16.0	0	.0	0	.0	159	1274.8
Hampden	7	6.5	10	9.2	0	.0	1032	954.0
Hampshire	0	.0	1	3.8	0	.0	36	136.9
Middlesex	49	23.7	0	.0	17	8.2	279	134.7
Nantucket	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	1	60.8
Norfolk	33	30.0	8	7.3	4	3.6	252	229.4
Plymouth	21	19.5	0	.0	4	3.7	163	151.3
Suffolk	2	1.5	0	.0	0	.0	388	299.6
Worcester	32	21.0	7	4.6	5	3.3	635	416.3
<b>State totals</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>3928</b>	<b>340.6</b>

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

**Other Assaults.** There were 1,384 juveniles reported arrested in the Commonwealth in 1998 for other assaults, resulting in an arrest rate of 120 per 100,000 juveniles. Bristol County had the highest number of juvenile arrests and arrest rate for other assaults, 309 and 245, respectively.

Worcester County followed with the second largest number of juveniles arrested for other assaults (204), but ranked seventh in statewide arrest rates.

**Forgery.** The total number of juvenile forgery arrests in Massachusetts was 23, producing an arrest rate of 2 juveniles per 100,000 juveniles. Franklin County had the highest juvenile arrest rate for forgery (8), but only one juvenile was arrested for this offense. Norfolk and Middlesex Counties both had the highest number of juvenile forgery arrests, at 5 each.

**Fraud.** A total of 33 juveniles were arrested for fraud in Massachusetts, an arrest rate of 2.9 per 100,000 juveniles. Middlesex County had the largest number of juvenile fraud arrests (14), representing 42 percent of the total fraud arrests, with a corresponding arrest rate of 6.8.

**Stolen Property.** Juvenile stolen property arrests totaled 392 in Massachusetts, resulting in a statewide arrest rate of 34.0 per 100,000 juveniles. While Hampden County had the highest number of juvenile arrests for stolen property (95), Franklin County had the highest arrest rate for this crime (104).

**Table 3-14.**

**Juvenile Part II Arrests and Arrest Rates**

County	Juvenile Other Assault Arrests	Juvenile Other Assaults Arrest Rate	Juvenile Forgery Arrests	Juvenile Forgery Arrest Rate	Juvenile Fraud Arrests	Juvenile Fraud Arrest Rate	Juvenile Stolen Property Arrests	Juvenile Stolen Property Arrest Rate
Barnstable	84	201.3	1	2.4	1	2.4	11	26.4
Berkshire	36	149.4	0	.0	0	.0	11	45.6
Bristol	309	245.3	0	.0	4	3.2	33	26.2
Dukes	3	135.3	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Essex	37	35.6	2	1.9	3	2.9	20	19.2
Franklin	12	96.2	1	8.0	0	.0	13	104.2
Hampden	85	78.6	4	3.7	2	1.8	95	87.8
Hampshire	20	76.1	0	.0	0	.0	12	45.6
Middlesex	124	59.9	5	2.4	14	6.8	17	8.2
Nantucket	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Norfolk	89	81.0	5	4.6	1	.9	21	19.1
Plymouth	195	181.0	1	.9	1	.9	83	77.0
Suffolk	186	143.6	1	.8	3	2.3	41	31.7
Worcester	204	133.7	3	2.0	4	2.6	35	22.9
<b>State totals</b>	<b>1384</b>	<b>120.0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>34.0</b>

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

**Vandalism.** In 1998, 965 juveniles were arrested for vandalism in Massachusetts, generating an arrest rate of 83.7 per 100,000 juveniles. Franklin County, which had the highest vandalism arrest rate at 249, arrested only a total of 31 juveniles. However, Worcester County, which had the largest number of juvenile vandalism arrests at 171, had an arrest rate of 112, placing it fourth overall.

**Prostitution/Sex Offense Violations.** There were a total of 38 juveniles arrested in the state for prostitution, for an arrest rate of 3.3 per 100,000. The majority of these arrests (28) occurred in Suffolk County, resulting in the highest arrest rate in the state at 21.6. In total, 84 juveniles were arrested in Massachusetts for sex offense violations, an arrest rate of 7.3 per 100,000 juveniles. Bristol County had the largest number of juvenile arrests for sex offense violations (23) and the highest corresponding arrest rate (18.3).

**Gambling.** Total gambling arrests were extremely low, with all 5 arrests occurring in Suffolk County. Suffolk County had an arrest rate of 3.9 as compared to 0.3 juveniles per 100,000 for all 14 counties.

**Table 3-15.**

**Juvenile Part II Arrests and Arrest Rates**

County	Juvenile Vandalism Arrests	Juvenile Vandalism Arrest Rate	Juvenile Prostitution Arrests	Juvenile Prostitution Arrest Rate	Juvenile Sex Offenses Arrests	Juvenile Sex Offenses Arrest Rate	Juvenile Total Gambling Arrests	Juvenile Total Gambling Arrest Rate
Barnstable	60	143.8	0	.0	3	7.2	0	.0
Berkshire	5	20.7	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Bristol	138	109.5	6	4.8	23	18.3	0	.0
Dukes	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Essex	44	42.3	1	1.0	0	.0	0	.0
Franklin	31	248.6	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Hampden	103	95.2	0	.0	2	1.8	0	.0
Hampshire	20	76.1	0	.0	3	11.4	0	.0
Middlesex	88	42.5	0	.0	7	3.4	0	.0
Nantucket	1	60.8	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Norfolk	101	91.9	0	.0	4	3.6	0	.0
Plymouth	107	99.3	0	.0	9	8.4	0	.0
Suffolk	96	74.1	28	21.6	13	10.0	5	3.9
Worcester	171	112.1	3	2.0	20	13.1	0	.0
<b>State totals</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>.4</b>

Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

## JUVENILE STATUS OFFENDER ARRESTS AND ARREST RATES

**Curfew and Loitering Law Violations.** A total of 24 juveniles were arrested for curfew and loitering law violations, for a state arrest rate of 2.1 per 100,000 juveniles. Hampden County had the highest number of juveniles arrested for this violation at 11, for an arrest rate of 10.2 juveniles per 100,000.

**Runaways.** The number of juveniles arrested as runaways in Massachusetts was much higher at 757, for an arrest rate of 65.6. Worcester County had the highest number of juveniles arrested for running away (190), resulting in an arrest rate of 125. The runaway arrest rate is highest for Franklin County (281), but it has a considerably small number of juvenile runaway arrests (35).

**Table 3-16.**

Juvenile Status Offense Arrests and Arrest Rates				
County	Juvenile Curfew and Loitering Law Violation Arrests	Juvenile Curfew and Loitering Law Violation Arrest Rate	Juvenile Runaways Arrests	Juvenile Runaways Arrest Rate
Barnstable	0	.0	25	59.9
Berkshire	0	.0	59	244.8
Bristol	0	.0	101	80.2
Dukes	0	.0	4	180.4
Essex	7	6.7	23	22.1
Franklin	0	.0	35	280.6
Hampden	11	10.2	16	14.8
Hampshire	0	.0	67	254.8
Middlesex	1	.5	29	14.0
Nantucket	0	.0	0	.0
Norfolk	5	4.6	62	56.4
Plymouth	0	.0	141	130.9
Suffolk	0	.0	5	3.9
Worcester	0	.0	190	124.6
<b>State totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>65.6</b>

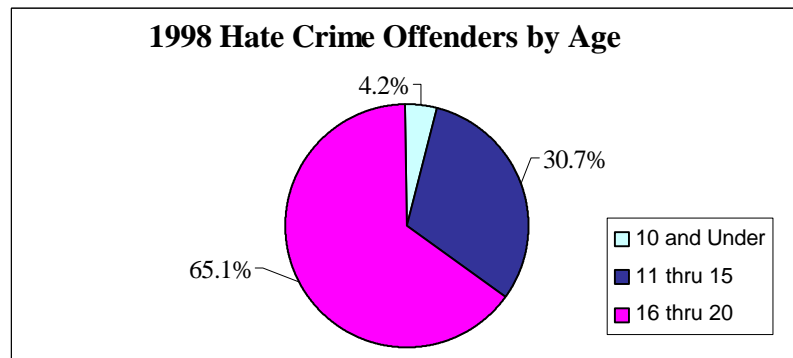
Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2000

## HATE CRIMES

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In 1998, a total of 497 hate crime reports were filed in Massachusetts, representing a total of 766 criminal hate crime offenses. In the 425 cases in which the victim's age was indicated, youth (age 20 and under) comprised 34% of hate crimes victims. Fifty-four percent (54%) of youth victims were ages 16-20 and 34% were ages 11-15. In the 354 cases in which the offender's age was indicated, youth comprised 60% of hate crime offenders. Of youth offenders, 65% were ages 16-20 (Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes, 1999).

**Figure 3-4.**



Source: Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes, 1999



## **JUVENILE OFFENDERS:**

AN ANALYSIS OF DATA REPORTED BY  
MASSACHUSETTS LAW ENFORCEMENT TO THE  
NATIONAL INCIDENT-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM

## NATIONAL INCIDENT BASED REPORTING SYSTEM (NIBRS)

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The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) builds on Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), but collects incident-based rather than summary information regarding incidents and arrests. Law enforcement agencies collect and report detailed information regarding individual crime incidents and arrests relating to the Group “A” offenses, which are the 8 Index crimes and 38 other offenses. In addition, arrest data is collected for an additional 11 offenses (Group “B” offenses). Unlike the UCR program, NIBRS counts all offenses and does not utilize the “hierarchy rule.”

The NIBRS dataset is organized into 7 record segments that describe the incidents and arrests:

1. Administrative (e.g., incident number, date/hour, clearance information)
2. Offense (e.g., attempted/completed, drug use, bias motivation, location, weapon/force involved, number of premises entered/method of entry, type of criminal activity)
3. Property (e.g., type of property loss, description and value of property, number of recovered and stolen motor vehicles, drug type/quantity)
4. Victim (e.g., age, sex, race, ethnicity, serious violent crime circumstances, injury, relationship to offender)
5. Offender (e.g., age, race, sex)
6. Arrestee (e.g., age, sex, race, ethnicity, arrest type, disposition, weapon)
7. Arrestee Group B Offenses (e.g., age, sex, race, ethnicity, arrest type, disposition, weapon).

Massachusetts is one of only 17 states currently certified and submitting NIBRS data to the FBI. The Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit provided the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) with the NIBRS dataset covering the years 1994 through 1999. Using a statistical software application, the SAC analyzed these data regarding juvenile offenders between the ages of 5 and 16. Because the number of agencies reporting data to NIBRS in Massachusetts varied greatly over the six-year period, caution should be used in comparing data across years (see Appendix for a complete list of reporting agencies from 1994 to 1999).

For purposes of this study, the SAC focused on the Group “A” offenses reported in the Arrestee and Offender NIBRS record segments, and also created an aggregated incident-level file, and an additional victim file that contained data relating to their associated juvenile offenders. In total, the data examined represents 34,147 incidents involving at least one juvenile offender, 43,083 juvenile offenders, 17,205 juvenile arrestees, and 28,887 individual victims who encountered at least one juvenile offender.

**Table 4-1.**

**Number of Records Used in Juvenile Analysis, 1994 - 1999**

Record Level	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Incident-Level	2,158	3,962	5,885	7,116	7,574	7,452	34,147
Arrestee-Level	1,212	2,113	3,022	3,351	3,798	3,709	17,205
Offender-Level	2,859	5,006	7,403	8,868	9,520	9,427	43,083
Victim-Level	1,163	2,892	4,862	5,818	6,526	7,626	28,887

## CHARACTERISTICS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND ARRESTEES

The NIBRS Offender and Arrestee record segments were analyzed to identify the characteristics of juveniles who commit crimes. It is important to note that data regarding arrestees may be more reliable than data regarding offenders, since information describing offenders who are not apprehended may be based solely on victim or witness account.

### *Offender and Arrestee Gender*

Of the 43,083 juvenile offenders identified by reporting law enforcement agencies during the six-year period examined, between 78 and 80 percent were male and between 20 and 22 percent were female. The gender of less than one percent of offenders was unknown.

**Table 4-2.**

Juvenile Offenders by Gender, 1994 - 1999							
Gender	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Male	2,295	4,008	5,839	7,017	7,386	7,355	33,900
	80.3%	80.1%	78.9%	79.1%	77.6%	78.0%	78.7%
Female	562	994	1,538	1,840	2,097	2,031	9,062
	19.7%	19.9%	20.8%	20.7%	22.0%	21.5%	21.0%
Unknown	2	4	26	11	37	41	121
	.1%	.1%	.4%	.1%	.4%	.4%	.3%
Total	2,859	5,006	7,403	8,868	9,520	9,427	43,083
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The gender of juvenile arrestees reflects the data reported regarding the gender of offenders. Of the 17,205 juveniles arrested between 1994 and 1999, between 77 and 80 percent were male and between 20 and 23 percent were female. The gender of 3 juveniles was reportedly unknown.

**Table 4-3.**

Juvenile Arrestees by Gender, 1994 - 1999							
Gender	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Male	950	1,653	2,415	2,671	2,911	2,948	13,548
	78.4%	78.2%	79.9%	79.7%	76.6%	79.5%	78.7%
Female	262	459	605	680	887	761	3,654
	21.6%	21.7%	20.0%	20.3%	23.4%	20.5%	21.2%
Unknown		1	2				3
		.0%	.1%				.0%
Total	1,212	2,113	3,022	3,351	3,798	3,709	17,205
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Offender and Arrestee Race***

The majority of juvenile offenders were white (77 to 88 percent), followed by black offenders (8 to 14 percent). Asian juvenile offenders represented 1 to 2 percent of juvenile offenders, and less than 1 percent of juvenile offenders were American Indian. The race of 3 to 8 percent of offenders was unknown.

**Table 4-4.**

<b>Juvenile Offenders by Race, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Race	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
White	2,524	4,252	6,017	6,857	7,654	7,505	34,809
	88.3%	84.9%	81.3%	77.3%	80.4%	79.6%	80.8%
Black	221	448	844	1,198	1,070	1,069	4,850
	7.7%	8.9%	11.4%	13.5%	11.2%	11.3%	11.3%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	1	2	5	3	11	11	33
	.0%	.0%	.1%	.0%	.1%	.1%	.1%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	30	88	115	99	109	91	532
	1.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.2%
Unknown	83	216	422	711	676	751	2,859
	2.9%	4.3%	5.7%	8.0%	7.1%	8.0%	6.6%
Total	2,859	5,006	7,403	8,868	9,520	9,427	43,083
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The racial characteristics of juveniles who were arrested, mirrored the general population of juvenile offenders. The overwhelming majority of juveniles arrested were white (79 to 89 percent), followed by black arrestees (9 to 15 percent). Asian juvenile offenders represented 1 to 3 percent of juvenile arrestees, and less than 1 percent of juvenile arrestees were Native American. Interestingly, the race of 1 to 5 percent of arrestees was unknown, despite being taken into custody.

**Table 4-5.**

<b>Juvenile Arrestees by Race, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Race	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
White	1,073	1,783	2,476	2,640	3,148	3,050	14,170
	88.5%	84.4%	81.9%	78.8%	82.9%	82.2%	82.4%
Black	104	223	395	502	444	410	2,078
	8.6%	10.6%	13.1%	15.0%	11.7%	11.1%	12.1%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	1	1	4	1	8	2	17
	.1%	.0%	.1%	.0%	.2%	.1%	.1%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	18	54	69	57	55	61	314
	1.5%	2.6%	2.3%	1.7%	1.4%	1.6%	1.8%
Unknown	16	52	78	151	143	186	626
	1.3%	2.5%	2.6%	4.5%	3.8%	5.0%	3.6%
Total	1,212	2,113	3,022	3,351	3,798	3,709	17,205
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Arrestee Ethnicity***

Since offender ethnicity is not recorded in the Offender record segment, the Arrestee segment was used to measure this characteristic. The ethnicity of the 17,205 juveniles arrested was primarily non-Hispanic (65 to 78 percent of arrestees). Over the six-year period, between 14 and 21 percent of juveniles were Hispanic. The ethnicity of 8 to 17 percent of arrestees was unknown.

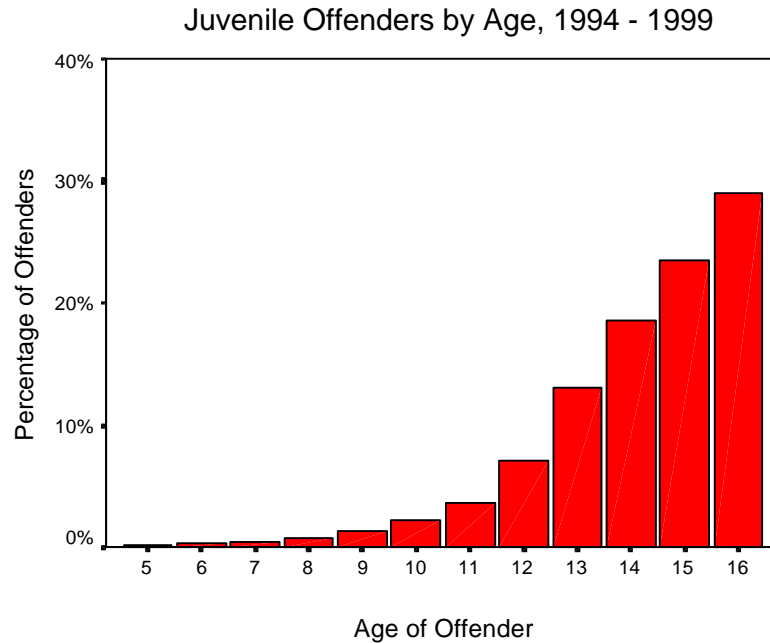
**Table 4-6.**

<b>Juvenile Arrestees by Ethnicity, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Ethnicity	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Hispanic	166	400	586	691	623	579	3,045
	13.7%	18.9%	19.4%	20.6%	16.4%	15.6%	17.7%
Non-Hispanic	948	1,505	2,104	2,167	2,593	2,485	11,802
	78.2%	71.2%	69.6%	64.7%	68.3%	67.0%	68.6%
Unknown	98	208	332	493	582	645	2,358
	8.1%	9.8%	11.0%	14.7%	15.3%	17.4%	13.7%
Total	1,212	2,113	3,022	3,351	3,798	3,709	17,205
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Offender and Arrestee Age***

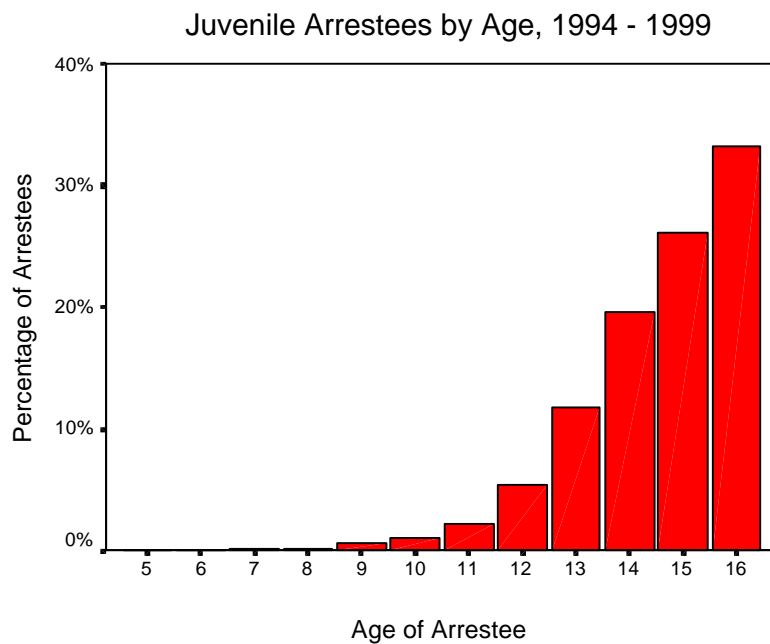
Juvenile offenders were typically older. From 1994 to 1999, 29 percent of offenders were 16 years old, 24 percent were 15 years old, and 19 percent were 14 years old. Twenty-nine percent of offenders were 13 years old or younger.

**Figure 4-1.**



Juvenile arrestees were also typically older. From 1994 to 1999, 33 percent of juvenile arrestees were 16 years old, 26 percent were 15 years old, and 20 percent were 14 years old. Twenty-one percent of juvenile arrestees were 13 years old or younger.

**Figure 4-2.**



### ***Arrestee Resident Status***

Law enforcement agencies participating in NIBRS can record the resident status of the arrestee. According to the NIBRS specifications, “a ‘resident’ is a person who maintains his/her permanent home for legal purposes in the locality (i.e., town, city, or community) where the crime took place” (FBI, 1996, p.101). Approximately three-quarters of juvenile arrestees (73 to 78 percent) were residents of the community in which they committed their crime(s). One-quarter of juvenile arrestees committed their crimes outside of their hometown.

**Table 4-7.**

<b>Juvenile Arrestees by Resident Status, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Resident Status	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Resident	886	1,583	2,305	2,604	2,904	2,831	13,113
	73.1%	74.9%	76.3%	77.7%	76.5%	76.3%	76.2%
NonResident	310	501	664	666	812	785	3,738
	25.6%	23.7%	22.0%	19.9%	21.4%	21.2%	21.7%
Unknown	16	29	53	81	82	93	354
	1.3%	1.4%	1.8%	2.4%	2.2%	2.5%	2.1%
Total	1,212	2,113	3,022	3,351	3,798	3,709	17,205
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The above analysis raises the following question: which crimes are juveniles more likely to commit outside of their community? As the table below indicates, regardless of the offense, juveniles are most often residents of the community in which they commit their crime. However, juveniles are more likely to commit the crimes of larceny and murder (38 and 29 percent, respectively) outside of their home community than other crimes. In addition, nearly one-quarter of juveniles arrested for motor vehicle theft were not a resident of the community where they were arrested.

**Table 4-8.**

<b>Juvenile Arrestees by Resident Status and Arrest Offense, 1994 - 1999</b>				
Arrest Offense	Resident	NonResident	Unknown	Total
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	5	2		7
	71.4%	28.6%		100.0%
Forcible Rape	70	13	5	88
	79.5%	14.8%	5.7%	100.0%
Robbery	238	66	8	312
	76.3%	21.2%	2.6%	100.0%
Aggravated Assault	2,204	230	76	2,510
	87.8%	9.2%	3.0%	100.0%
Burglary	1,322	319	20	1,661
	79.6%	19.2%	1.2%	100.0%
Larceny	2,914	1,807	74	4,795
	60.8%	37.7%	1.5%	100.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	449	140	5	594
	75.6%	23.6%	.8%	100.0%
All other offenses	5,911	1,161	166	7,238
	81.7%	16.0%	2.3%	100.0%
Total	13,113	3,738	354	17,205
	76.2%	21.7%	2.1%	100.0%

### ***Arrestee Disposition***

NIBRS-participating law enforcement agencies also provide data regarding the disposition of cases involving juvenile arrestees. Police can report whether the juvenile was either handled within the department (e.g., released to parents, released with warning, etc.) or referred to other authorities (e.g., court, probation, welfare agency, other police agency, etc.) (FBI, 1996, p.101). According to Massachusetts law enforcement agencies submitting NIBRS reports, over the total six-year period examined, one-third of juvenile arrestees were handled within the department and the remaining two-thirds of arrestees were referred to another authority.

**Table 4-9.**

<b>Juvenile Arrestees by Police Disposition, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Police Disposition	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Handled Within Department	184	564	981	1,413	1,424	1,358	5,924
	15.2%	26.7%	32.5%	42.2%	37.5%	36.6%	34.4%
Referred to Other Authority	1,028	1,549	2,041	1,938	2,374	2,351	11,281
	84.8%	73.3%	67.5%	57.8%	62.5%	63.4%	65.6%
Total	1,212	2,113	3,022	3,351	3,798	3,709	17,205
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Arrest Type***

Law enforcement can take several different actions when arresting a suspect. An “On-View Arrest” occurs when the arresting officer takes an individual into custody without a warrant or previous incident report. When an individual is “Summoned/Cited,” they are not taken into custody. A person who is “Taken into Custody” has a warrant and/or a previously submitted incident report. According to NIBRS data, the majority of juvenile arrestees (66 to 74 percent) were arrested “On-View.” An additional 19 to 29 percent of juvenile arrestees were “Summoned/Cited” and not taken into police custody. The remaining 5 to 8 percent of juvenile arrestees were “Taken into Custody” as a result of a warrant or previous incident report.

**Table 4-10.**

<b>Juvenile Arrestees by Arrest Type, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Type of Arrest	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
On-View	811	1,562	2,166	2,442	2,526	2,443	11,950
	66.9%	73.9%	71.7%	72.9%	66.5%	65.9%	69.5%
Summoned/Cited	300	394	651	671	1,054	1,069	4,139
	24.8%	18.6%	21.5%	20.0%	27.8%	28.8%	24.1%
Taken into Custody	101	157	205	238	218	197	1,116
	8.3%	7.4%	6.8%	7.1%	5.7%	5.3%	6.5%
Total	1,212	2,113	3,022	3,351	3,798	3,709	17,205
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Number of Offenders in Incident***

National research indicates that from 1980 to 1997, multiple offenders were involved in half of all homicides committed by juveniles (Snyder & Sickmund, 1999). In Massachusetts, approximately one in four incidents involving a juvenile were committed by a group of offenders acting together (25 to 29 percent of incidents). Clearly, perpetrators acting alone commit the majority of incidents committed by juvenile offenders (71 to 75 percent).

**Table 4-11.**

<b>Incidents Involving Juvenile Offenders by Number of Offenders, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Offender Composition	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Single Offender	1,541	2,859	4,279	5,290	5,628	5,533	25,130
	71.4%	72.2%	72.7%	74.3%	74.3%	74.2%	73.6%
Multiple Offenders	617	1,103	1,606	1,826	1,946	1,919	9,017
	28.6%	27.8%	27.3%	25.7%	25.7%	25.8%	26.4%
Total	2,158	3,962	5,885	7,116	7,574	7,452	34,147
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

In examining gender differences and crime, research has suggested that females are overwhelmingly more likely to commit violent crimes alone, but often commit property crimes with others, in many cases males (Triplett & Meyers, 1995). The Massachusetts NIBRS data supports these findings. The following table indicates that while both male and female offenders were far more likely to commit Index person and property offenses alone, they are more likely to commit Index property crimes in groups than Index person offenses. Thirty-one percent of incidents that had an Index property crime as the most serious offense were committed by a group of males, whereas 18 percent of incidents that had an Index person crime as the most serious offense were committed by a group of males. A similar trend can be seen with female juvenile offenders. Twenty-eight percent of incidents that had an Index property crime as the most serious offense were committed by a group of females, whereas 17 percent of incidents that had an Index person crime as the most serious offense were committed by a group of females.

**Table 4-12.**

**Incidents Involving Juvenile Offenders by Most Serious Incident Offense Grouping and  
Number of Offenders by Gender, 1994 - 1999**

			Offender Gender Group				
			Male Offender(s)	Female Offender(s)	Male & Female Offenders	Gender Unknown	Total
Most Serious Incident Offense Grouping: Number of Offenders							
Person Offenses	Single Offender		4,312	1,440		8	5,760
		Layer %	82.3%	83.4%		72.7%	80.4%
		Column %	16.6%	21.2%		7.5%	16.9%
	Multiple Offenders		927	287	187	3	1,404
		Layer %	17.7%	16.6%	100.0%	27.3%	19.6%
		Column %	3.6%	4.2%	14.6%	2.8%	4.1%
Property Offenses	Single Offender		6,165	1,756		31	7,952
		Layer %	69.3%	72.5%		93.9%	67.0%
		Column %	23.7%	25.9%		29.2%	23.3%
	Multiple Offenders		2,735	665	506	2	3,908
		Layer %	30.7%	27.5%	100.0%	6.1%	33.0%
		Column %	10.5%	9.8%	39.6%	1.9%	11.4%
Other Offenses	Single Offender		9,112	2,246		60	11,418
		Layer %	77.0%	85.1%		96.8%	75.5%
		Column %	35.1%	33.1%		56.6%	33.4%
	Multiple Offenders		2,725	393	585	2	3,705
		Layer %	23.0%	14.9%	100.0%	3.2%	24.5%
		Column %	10.5%	5.8%	45.8%	1.9%	10.9%
Total		25,976	6,787	1,278	106	34,147	
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

## VICTIMS OF JUVENILE CRIME

The current inquiry attempts to gain insight into the characteristics of juvenile crime victims. Several data sources were used to identify the characteristics of victims of crimes perpetrated by juvenile offenders. First, the incident-level record file was utilized to identify the characteristics of victims involved in incidents perpetrated by juveniles. Second, the victim-level record segment was analyzed with regard to individuals who were victimized by a juvenile.

### *Number of Victims in Incident*

The incident-level record file was analyzed to determine the number of victims involved in individual incidents. This analysis was not limited to individual victims, as it also included victims that were recorded as businesses, financial institutions, government, religious institutions, and society/public. The overwhelming majority of incidents involving juvenile offenders (approximately 89 percent) involved a single victim. More specifically, 65 to 68 percent of incidents involved one offender and one victim and 21 to 24 percent of incidents involved one victim and multiple offenders. In approximately 11 percent of incidents perpetrated by juveniles, there were multiple victims. Six to 7 percent of incidents involved multiple victims with one offender, and 4 to 5 percent of incidents involved multiple victims and offenders.

**Table 4-13.**

**Incidents Involving Juvenile Offenders by Number of Offenders and Victims, 1994 - 1999**

Offender and Victim Composition	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Single Victim / Single Offender	1,400	2,623	3,943	4,795	5,123	5,025	22,909
	64.9%	66.2%	67.0%	67.4%	67.6%	67.4%	67.1%
Single Victim / Multiple Offenders	519	943	1,347	1,530	1,636	1,538	7,513
	24.1%	23.8%	22.9%	21.5%	21.6%	20.6%	22.0%
Multiple Victims / Multiple Offenders	98	160	259	296	310	381	1,504
	4.5%	4.0%	4.4%	4.2%	4.1%	5.1%	4.4%
Multiple Victims / Single Offender	141	236	336	495	505	508	2,221
	6.5%	6.0%	5.7%	7.0%	6.7%	6.8%	6.5%
Total	2,158	3,962	5,885	7,116	7,574	7,452	34,147
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Victim Type***

The majority of incidents committed by juveniles were perpetrated against an individual (63 to 70 percent of incidents). The remaining 30 to 34 percent of incidents were committed against other entities (e.g., a business, financial institution, government, religious organization, society/public).

**Table 4-14.**

#### **Incidents Involving Juvenile Offenders by Number of Victims that are Individuals, 1994 - 1999**

Number of Victim Individuals	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
No Individual Victim(s) Involved	734 34.0%	1,483 37.4%	2,130 36.2%	2,275 32.0%	2,302 30.4%	2,278 30.6%	11,202 32.8%
Involved Individual Victim(s)	1,424 66.0%	2,479 62.6%	3,755 63.8%	4,841 68.0%	5,272 69.6%	5,174 69.4%	22,945 67.2%
Total	2,158 100.0%	3,962 100.0%	5,885 100.0%	7,116 100.0%	7,574 100.0%	7,452 100.0%	34,147 100.0%

### ***Victim Age***

Of the 22,945 incidents perpetrated by a juvenile against an individual victim, 61 to 68 percent were perpetrated against an adult. Approximately one-third of incidents involving a juvenile offender were committed against at least one person under the age of 17.

**Table 4-15.**

#### **Incidents Involving Juvenile Offenders by Number of Victims Under 17 Years, 1994 - 1999**

Number of Juv. Victims	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
No Juvenile Victim(s) Involved	950 66.7%	1,689 68.1%	2,445 65.1%	3,074 63.5%	3,218 61.0%	3,116 60.2%	14,492 63.2%
Involved Victim(s) Under 17	474 33.3%	790 31.9%	1,310 34.9%	1,767 36.5%	2,054 39.0%	2,058 39.8%	8,453 36.8%
Total	1,424 100.0%	2,479 100.0%	3,755 100.0%	4,841 100.0%	5,272 100.0%	5,174 100.0%	22,945 100.0%

Similar results were found when the ages of all victims of juvenile crime were examined. Of the 28,887 victims of crimes perpetrated by juvenile offenders, 52 to 66 percent of victims were adult, and 34 to 48 percent were juvenile.

**Table 4-16.**

<b>Age Group of Victims of Juvenile Crime, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Victim Age Group	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
Adult Victim	601	1,921	3,122	3,522	3,853	4,839	17,858
	51.7%	66.4%	64.2%	60.5%	59.0%	63.5%	61.8%
Juvenile Victim	562	971	1,740	2,296	2,673	2,787	11,029
	48.3%	33.6%	35.8%	39.5%	41.0%	36.5%	38.2%
Total	1,163	2,892	4,862	5,818	6,526	7,626	28,887
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Victim Injury***

Fendrich et al. (1995) found that hitting was the most frequent form of assault committed by both juvenile males and females. However, males were found to be significantly more likely to beat their victims and use higher levels of force in their attacks, and based on self-reports, were more likely to inflict serious injuries to their victim, in some cases resulting in hospitalization.

Based on self reports, Campbell (1986) examined the incidence of fighting among young girls throughout England. The main methods of fighting were found to be kicking and punching. Less frequent forms of fighting included slapping, scratching, and biting (tactics often expected of young girls). The reasons given for fighting do not indicate any unique gender differences. Apparently, delinquent girls engage in fighting for similar reasons that boys do. Protecting one's honor or the honor of their friends is often the most frequent reason, followed by responding to false accusations. Very little serious injury was inflicted during these fights, according to girls who reported participating in such incidents. The most common incidents reported led to scrapes, bruises, and cuts.

According to Massachusetts NIBRS data, of the 22,945 incidents that involved an individual victim from 1994 to 1999, the majority of incidents (72 to 74 percent) did not result in victim injury. Approximately one-quarter of incidents (25 to 26 percent) resulted in an injury to one victim and two or more victims were injured in 1 to 2 percent of incidents. From 1994 to 1999, 362 incidents involved injury to two victims, 57 incidents result in three victim injuries, and 19 incidents involved four or more victim injuries.

**Table 4-17.**

**Incidents Involving Juvenile Offenders by Number of Victims Injured, 1994 - 1999**

Number of Victims Injured	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
0	1,035	1,830	2,704	3,476	3,873	3,724	16,642
	72.7%	73.8%	72.0%	71.8%	73.5%	72.0%	72.5%
1	365	607	976	1,268	1,311	1,338	5,865
	25.6%	24.5%	26.0%	26.2%	24.9%	25.9%	25.6%
2	20	35	55	82	71	99	362
	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.7%	1.3%	1.9%	1.6%
3	2	4	18	9	14	10	57
	.1%	.2%	.5%	.2%	.3%	.2%	.2%
4	2	2		2	2	3	11
	.1%	.1%		.0%	.0%	.1%	.0%
5		1		2	1		4
		.0%		.0%	.0%		.0%
6			1	1			2
			.0%	.0%			.0%
8				1			1
				.0%			.0%
12			1				1
			.0%				.0%
Total	1,424	2,479	3,755	4,841	5,272	5,174	22,945
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The following table presents the types of injuries incurred by victims of juvenile crime. Across all six years examined, 8,050 victims were injured (28%), 7,789 victims were not injured (27%) and victim injury was unknown for 13,048 victims (45 percent). As victims can have more than one injury, the number of injuries in the following table does not add to the total number of victims presented in the last row of the table. Between 1994 and 1999, for the 15,839 victims where injury data was available, nearly half of all victims did not receive an injury at the hand of a juvenile offender. Between 44 and 46 percent of victims received an apparent minor injury. A severe laceration was received by 2 to 5 percent of victims.

**Table 4-18.**

<b>Injuries Incurred to Victims of Juvenile Crime, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Victim Injury	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
None	408	701	1,200	1,687	1,906	1,887	7,789
	44.7%	45.4%	45.6%	48.7%	51.4%	49.6%	48.5%
Apparent Broken Bones	14	16	31	31	28	30	150
	1.5%	1.0%	1.2%	.9%	.8%	.8%	.9%
Possible Internal Injury	17	23	36	38	47	38	199
	1.9%	1.5%	1.4%	1.1%	1.3%	1.0%	1.2%
Severe Laceration	45	84	99	117	76	75	496
	4.9%	5.4%	3.8%	3.4%	2.0%	2.0%	3.1%
Apparent Minor Injury	412	688	1,211	1,555	1,616	1,733	7,215
	45.1%	44.6%	46.1%	44.9%	43.6%	45.6%	44.9%
Other Major Injury	8	16	23	28	14	20	109
	.9%	1.0%	.9%	.8%	.4%	.5%	.7%
Loss of Teeth	6	8	20	7	11	8	60
	.7%	.5%	.8%	.2%	.3%	.2%	.4%
Unconsciousness	3	8	9	2	11	13	46
	.3%	.5%	.3%	.1%	.3%	.3%	.3%
Total	896	1,516	2,567	3,434	3,667	3,759	15,839
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Victim/Offender Relationship***

The Uniform Crime Reports does not provide information on the relationship between offenders and their victims. The NIBRS dataset, however, provides ample information regarding incidences of interpersonal, familial, and acquaintance violence. According to a 1999 report titled *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*, (Snyder & Sickmund, 1999) with regard to homicide, 54 percent of male juvenile offenders murdered a friend or acquaintance, followed by a stranger (37 percent) and family member (9 percent). Female juvenile offenders were more likely to murder a family member (39 percent) and less likely to murder a stranger (15 percent).

According to Massachusetts NIBRS data, the majority of victims of juvenile crime were known to the offenders, but were not family members or in a dating relationship with the offender (42 to 53 percent of victims). Fourteen to 26 percent of victims were strangers to the offender. Between 12 and 15 percent of victims were identified as the offenders' family member. Only 1 to 2 percent of victims were in a dating relationship with the offender. Unfortunately, the relationship of the victim to the offender was unknown for 15 to 25 percent of the victims. Relationship data regarding an additional 144 victims was not reported by law enforcement.

**Table 4-19.**

<b>Relationship of Victims of Juvenile Crime to Offender, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Relationship to Victim	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
Familial	160	366	588	850	886	1,007	3,857
	13.9%	12.8%	12.3%	14.6%	13.6%	13.2%	13.4%
Dating	24	29	52	60	76	71	312
	2.1%	1.0%	1.1%	1.0%	1.2%	.9%	1.1%
Strangers	160	731	931	981	1,135	1,672	5,610
	13.9%	25.6%	19.4%	16.9%	17.4%	21.9%	19.5%
Relationship Unknown	179	517	1,201	1,236	1,189	1,469	5,791
	15.6%	18.1%	25.1%	21.3%	18.3%	19.3%	20.1%
Victim was Offender	13	12	26	36	52	72	211
	1.1%	.4%	.5%	.6%	.8%	.9%	.7%
Otherwise Known	611	1,199	1,995	2,653	3,169	3,335	12,962
	53.3%	42.0%	41.6%	45.6%	48.7%	43.7%	45.1%
Total	1,147	2,854	4,793	5,816	6,507	7,626	28,743
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## CRIMES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES

The NIBRS Incident-level and Arrestee-level record segments provide the means for identifying crimes committed most frequently by juveniles, and more specifically, to examine the possible relationship between crime offenses, only the most serious offense was captured in the incident-level analysis. The Arrestee-level record segment was also examined and the most serious arrest offense type and offender age and gender. Incident-level data was examined to identify the crimes most frequently committed by juvenile offenders. As individual crime events can involve a number of was analyzed.

### *Types of Crimes Committed*

The majority of crimes committed by juveniles can be classified as Index offenses (i.e., murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft). For the years 1994 through 1999, larceny was the offense perpetrated most often by juvenile offenders, identified as the most serious incident offense in 21 to 30 percent of incidents. More specifically, the crime of larceny was predominantly comprised of shoplifting offenses. Aggravated assault was the second most frequently perpetrated offense, with 17 to 21 percent of incidents citing aggravated assault as the most serious incident offense. The crimes of larceny and aggravated assault were followed by: destruction, damage, or vandalism of property (13 to 14 percent of incidents), simple assault (9 to 17 percent of incidents), and drug violations (7 to 10 percent of incidents).

**Table 4-20.**

Incidents Involving Juvenile Offenders by Most Serious Incident Offense, 1994 - 1999							
Most Serious Incident Offense	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Index Offenses							
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	2	0	2	3	1	0	8
	.1%	0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	0%	.0%
Forcible Rape	18	18	37	41	45	46	205
	.8%	.5%	.6%	.6%	.6%	.6%	.6%
Robbery	27	49	92	126	96	110	500
	1.3%	1.2%	1.6%	1.8%	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%
Aggravated Assault	384	697	1,069	1,438	1,581	1,282	6,451
	17.8%	17.6%	18.2%	20.2%	20.9%	17.2%	18.9%
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	236	382	478	531	560	538	2,725
	10.9%	9.6%	8.1%	7.5%	7.4%	7.2%	8.0%
Larceny	589	1,167	1,528	1,704	1,738	1,590	8,316
	27.3%	29.5%	26.0%	23.9%	22.9%	21.3%	24.4%
Pocket-picking	0	2	1	3	5	0	11
	0%	.1%	.0%	.0%	.1%	0%	.0%
Purse-snatching	3	5	1	4	0	1	14
	.1%	.1%	.0%	.1%	0%	.0%	.0%
Shoplifting	339	699	905	869	863	777	4,452
	15.7%	17.6%	15.4%	12.2%	11.4%	10.4%	13.0%
Theft From Building	31	72	84	124	120	106	537
	1.4%	1.8%	1.4%	1.7%	1.6%	1.4%	1.6%
Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device	0	2	1	0	2	2	7
	0	.1%	.0%	0	.0%	.0%	.0%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	29	55	59	77	98	91	409
	1.3%	1.4%	1.0%	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	4	10	8	9	20	12	63
	.2%	.3%	.1%	.1%	.3%	.2%	.2%

Incidents Involving Juvenile Offenders by Most Serious Incident Offense, 1994 - 1999							
	Incident Year						
Most Serious Incident Offense	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
All Other Larceny	183	322	469	618	630	601	2,823
	8.5%	8.1%	8.0%	8.7%	8.3%	8.1%	8.3%
Motor Vehicle Theft	67	131	167	182	122	150	819
	3.1%	3.3%	2.8%	2.6%	1.6%	2.0%	2.4%
<b>Non-Index Offenses</b>							
Simple Assault	234	340	620	888	978	1,251	4,311
	10.8%	8.6%	10.5%	12.5%	12.9%	16.8%	12.6%
Intimidation	50	92	170	242	346	439	1,339
	2.3%	2.3%	2.9%	3.4%	4.6%	5.9%	3.9%
Forcible Sodomy	1	4	9	8	10	9	41
	.0%	.1%	.2%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%
Sexual Assault With An Object	3	4	13	6	5	5	36
	.1%	.1%	.2%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%
Forcible Fondling	15	19	18	19	48	41	160
	.7%	.5%	.3%	.3%	.6%	.6%	.5%
Rape of a Male	1	2	0	1	2	2	8
	.0%	.1%	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
Kidnaping/Abduction	1	1	0	0	2	2	6
	.0%	.0%	0%	0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
Negligent Manslaughter	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
	.0%	0%	.0%	.0%	0%	0%	.0%
Arson	18	41	57	62	65	85	328
	.8%	1.0%	1.0%	.9%	.9%	1.1%	1.0%
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
	0%	0%	0%	0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	7	2	11	13	17	20	70
	.3%	.1%	.2%	.2%	.2%	.3%	.2%
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	1	5	16	5	4	6	37
	.0%	.1%	.3%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%
Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	4	9	5	5	5	4	32
	.2%	.2%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%
Impersonation	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
	0%	0%	.0%	.0%	0%	0%	.0%
Wire Fraud	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	.0%	.0%
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	.0%	.0%
Stolen Property Offenses	16	72	120	149	128	115	600
	.7%	1.8%	2.0%	2.1%	1.7%	1.5%	1.8%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	286	498	817	943	1,087	981	4,612
	13.3%	12.6%	13.9%	13.3%	14.4%	13.2%	13.5%
Drug/Narcotics Violations	156	368	581	665	641	694	3,105
	7.2%	9.3%	9.9%	9.3%	8.5%	9.3%	9.1%
Drug Equipment Violations	5	5	11	4	8	6	39
	.2%	.1%	.2%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%
Incest	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
	.0%	0%	.0%	0%	0%	0%	.0%
Statutory Rape	2	2	1	4	2	3	14
	.1%	.1%	.0%	.1%	.0%	.0%	.0%
Pornography/Obscene Material	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
	0%	0%	0%	.0%	0%	.0%	.0%
Betting/Wagering	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	0%	0%	0%	.0%	0%	0%	.0%
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	0%	0%	0%	0%	.0%	0%	.0%
Prostitution	0	0	0	3	1	2	6



The claim that the majority of offenses committed by juveniles are against property, rather than people, is also supported by the available data regarding juvenile arrestees. As indicated in the table below, from 1994 to 1999, 36 to 48 percent of juvenile arrestees were arrested for an Index property crime. Similar to the incident-level data, a good portion of juveniles (34 to 47 percent) were arrested for non-Index crimes.

**Table 4-22.**

<b>Juvenile Arrestees by Arrest Offense Group, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Arrest Offense Group	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Person Offenses	213	338	433	593	691	649	2,917
	17.6%	16.0%	14.3%	17.7%	18.2%	17.5%	17.0%
Property Offenses	585	999	1,377	1,310	1,447	1,332	7,050
	48.3%	47.3%	45.6%	39.1%	38.1%	35.9%	41.0%
Other Offenses	414	776	1,212	1,448	1,660	1,728	7,238
	34.2%	36.7%	40.1%	43.2%	43.7%	46.6%	42.1%
Total	1,212	2,113	3,022	3,351	3,798	3,709	17,205
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Age and Crime Type***

Elliott et al. (1986) examined the incidence and prevalence of juvenile offending, focusing on both age and gender. Using data from the National Youth Survey, this study examined the prevalence, hazard, and survival rates of serious juvenile offenders. The prevalence rate<sup>1</sup> indicated that approximately 5 percent of each age group (between 12 and 17) were classified as serious violent offenders. This rate significantly declined once those individuals turned seventeen, and continued to decline beyond the age of twenty-one. The survival rate<sup>2</sup> indicated that the older the individual gets, the less likely it was that they refrained from engaging in criminal activity, the rate dropping from 93 percent at age 12, to 77 percent at age 21.

<sup>1</sup>The prevalence rate is the proportion of all youth involved in violent behavior.

<sup>2</sup> Survival rate is "the proportion of individuals at each age which has never been classified as a serious violent offender." (Elliott et.al., 1986, p. 483).

The following tables demonstrate the types of crimes committed by Massachusetts' juvenile arrestees in the under 12 and 12 to 16 age groups. Table 4-23 indicates that the majority of juvenile offenders in both age groups commit Index property offenses (43 percent of juveniles under 12 and 42 percent of juveniles between the ages of 12 and 16). Table 4-24 shows a different statistic; the overwhelming majority of crimes are committed by juveniles over the age of 12 (96 percent of Index person, Index property, and non-Index offenses).

**Table 4-23.**

**Juvenile Arrestees by Arrest Offense Group and Age Group, 1994 - 1999 (Column Percents)**

Arrest Offense Group	Juvenile Arrestee Age Group		Total
	<12	12-16	
Person Offenses	131	2,786	2,917
	19.0%	16.9%	17.0%
Property Offenses	278	6,772	7,050
	40.3%	41.0%	41.0%
Other Offenses	281	6,957	7,238
	40.7%	42.1%	42.1%
Total	690	16,515	17,205
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 4-24.**

**Juvenile Arrestees by Arrest Offense Group and Age Group, 1994 - 1999 (Row Percents)**

Arrest Offense Group	Juvenile Arrestee Age Group		Total
	<12	12-16	
Person Offenses	131	2,786	2,917
	4.5%	95.5%	100.0%
Property Offenses	278	6,772	7,050
	3.9%	96.1%	100.0%
Other Offenses	281	6,957	7,238
	3.9%	96.1%	100.0%
Total	690	16,515	17,205
	4.0%	96.0%	100.0%

### ***Gender and Crime Type***

Previous research has focused a great deal on gender differences seen in crime type, finding that *violent* crimes are committed overwhelmingly by males compared to females, but less serious offending and delinquency has a limited relationship with gender (Butts & Snyder, 1997; Butts & Poe-Yamagata, 1996; Triplett & Meyers, 1995; Mawby, 1980; Elliott et al., 1986; Sickmund et al., 1998). Depending on the data used to examine this relationship, two very different interpretations can be assessed.

Upon examining how gender influences offending, specifically the context of the crime, level of seriousness, setting, and the relationship between victim and offender, Triplett & Meyers (1995) found that male and female juvenile criminal behavior is not so different. Using data from the National Youth Survey, the offenses studied ranged from truancy to serious assault, and concluded that *the more serious the offense, the greater the difference in gender*. However, though males reported offending more frequently, the type of crime or context of the offense (compared to the degree of violence), did not appear to indicate any considerable gender difference. "Researchers using both self-report and official data agree that males commit more serious offenses than females, while gender differences in the rate of offending for trivial offenses are less disparate." (Triplett & Meyers, 1995). Apparently, though males offend more often, both males and females engage in more minor offenses than violent ones, and it is only in the case of serious violent offenses that gender differences are visible. These conclusions are also documented by Snyder & Sickmund (1999), where, between 1980 and 1997, nine out of ten known juvenile murderers (93 percent) age 17 and under were male.

Elliott et al. (1986) examined the incidence and prevalence of juvenile offending, focusing on both age and gender. Gender differences were seen in the degree and frequency to which males and females commit crimes. The prevalence rate for males of all age groups was found to be much higher (2-3 times) compared to their female counterparts. Specifically, the prevalence of offending for males increased between the ages of 12 and 16, and then declined by the time they reached twenty-one. In the case of delinquent girls, the prevalence rate decreased with the coming of each year, with the highest rate of offending between the ages of 12 and 14. By the time this group of girls reached 21, only 1 percent of the group was still categorized as a serious juvenile offender. With regard to violent versus property offenses, Elliott et al. (1986) found that both male and female juveniles engaged in property crime more often (property arrests were two times higher than violent crime arrests) showing a notable increase at 15 years old.

A variety of explanations have been provided for the gender differences found in juvenile crime. Historically, in an effort to understand the motivation of young girls to commit crimes, authorities often focused on women's sexual misconduct and morality as opposed to delinquency, as it is considered today. Female criminality was perceived to be a response to the "changes" young women went through during adolescence (Chesney-Lind, et al., 1996). Mawby (1980) provides five theories that may account for the disparate number between male and female juveniles.

- ◆ *Expectations of Appropriate Behavior:* This refers to the societal expectations regarding the behavior of young men and women. Deviant behavior and displaying signs of toughness is much more acceptable of males compared to females. As a result, female delinquency and criminal behavior is often looked down upon.
- ◆ *Social control:* Social control is often applied to young girls more so than males. They are more likely to be strictly supervised and controlled by their parents with regard to what they can and cannot do.
- ◆ *Opportunity:* The opportunity theory suggests that males tend to have more freedom than females, and the roles that each have as part of society allow more mobility for young boys, thereby providing more opportunities to commit delinquent and criminal acts.
- ◆ *Influence of Career Models:* The gender typing associated with career choices may allow more flexibility for males to commit crimes. Young boys are expected to play the role of breadwinner, whereas young girls have traditionally been encouraged to be homemakers. These dichotomous roles may illicit a higher incidence of criminal behavior by males as a result of the pressures of successfully maintaining that role.
- ◆ *Gender-based Attitudes:* General attitudes resulting from gender socialization may lead girls to "hold much more conventional and conservative attitudes towards law and order than do boys and men" (Mawby, 1980).

While these theories are merely speculative in nature, they may provide some guidance in understanding the differences seen in male and female delinquency and criminality. In addition, these theoretical proposals may provide a better understanding of female criminality, of the types of crime they are more inclined to engage in, and the generally small percentage of juvenile offenders who are girls.

Interestingly, an examination of offense grouping by gender (Tables 4-25 and 4-26) demonstrates that females were most likely to be arrested for Index property offenses (49 percent), whereas males were most likely to be arrested for less serious, Non-Index offenses (43 percent). However, as Table 4-26 indicates, males commit the overwhelming majority of crimes in all offense groupings (75 percent of Index person and property offenses and 83 percent of less serious, non-Index offenses).

**Table 4-25.**

**Juvenile Arrestees by Arrest Offense Group and Gender, 1994 - 1999 (Column Percents)**

Arrest Offense Group	Arrestee Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	
Person Offenses	2,207	709	1	2,917
	16.3%	19.4%	33.3%	17.0%
Property Offenses	5,338	1,711	1	7,050
	39.4%	46.8%	33.3%	41.0%
Other Offenses	6,003	1,234	1	7,238
	44.3%	33.8%	33.3%	42.1%
Total	13,548	3,654	3	17,205
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 4-26.**

**Juvenile Arrestees by Arrest Offense Group and Gender, 1994 - 1999 (Row Percents)**

Arrest Offense Group	Arrestee Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	
Person Offenses	2,207	709	1	2,917
	75.7%	24.3%	.0%	100.0%
Property Offenses	5,338	1,711	1	7,050
	75.7%	24.3%	.0%	100.0%
Other Offenses	6,003	1,234	1	7,238
	82.9%	17.0%	.0%	100.0%
Total	13,548	3,654	3	17,205
	78.7%	21.2%	.0%	100.0%

## CHARACTERISTICS OF INCIDENTS PERPETRATED BY JUVENILES

The Incident-level record file was analyzed to determine the characteristics of incidents involving juvenile offenders.

### *Number of Offenses Committed in Incident*

The overwhelming majority of incidents involving juvenile offenders (87 to 89 percent) involved the commission of a single offense. Two offenses were perpetrated in approximately 10 percent of incidents, and between three and five offenses were committed in approximately 2 percent of incidents.

**Table 4-27.**

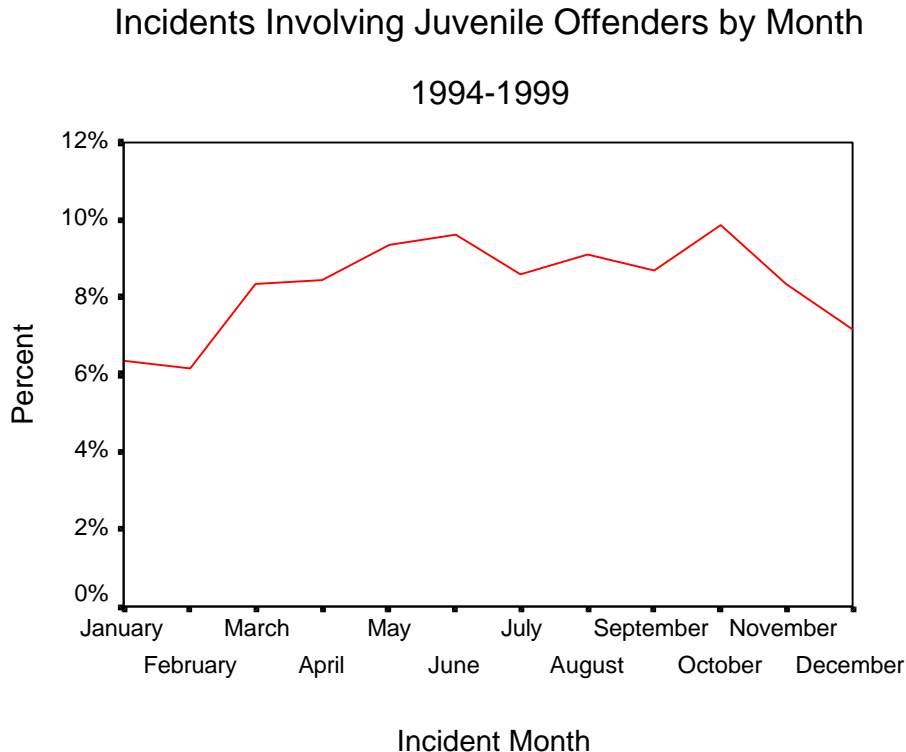
**Incidents Involving Juvenile Offenders by Number of Offenses Committed in Incident 1994 - 1999**

Number of Offenses	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
1	1,866	3,445	5,172	6,296	6,810	6,635	30,224
	86.5%	87.0%	87.9%	88.5%	89.9%	89.0%	88.5%
2	236	427	593	701	642	684	3,283
	10.9%	10.8%	10.1%	9.9%	8.5%	9.2%	9.6%
3	43	76	108	115	107	119	568
	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%	1.6%	1.4%	1.6%	1.7%
4	11	14	12	4	14	14	69
	.5%	.4%	.2%	.1%	.2%	.2%	.2%
5	2				1		3
	.1%				.0%		.0%
Total	2,158	3,962	5,885	7,116	7,574	7,452	34,147
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Month of Incident***

As Figure 4-3 indicates, juveniles commit crimes most frequently during the months of October (9.9 percent) and June (9.6 percent) and less frequently during the winter months of January and February (6.4 and 6.1 percent, respectively).

**Figure 4-3.**



### ***Time of Incident***

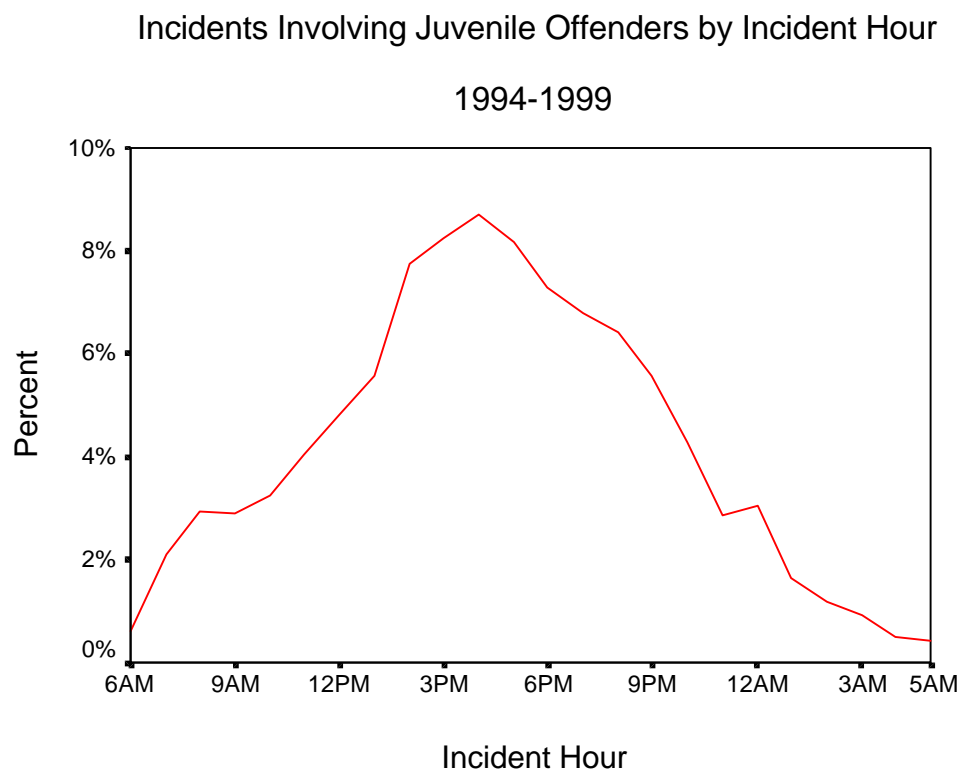
Juvenile crime is often unique in the time and place it occurs. Given the fact that young people attend school during the morning and afternoon hours, research indicates that the most frequent incidences of crime occur in the hours immediately following the end of the school day (Sickmund et al. 1997; Fox, 1996).

In a 1996 report to Attorney General Reno, James Alan Fox indicated that the most opportune time for juveniles to commit crimes and act violently was during the hours following their release from school. This is given further support by Snyder & Sickmund (1999), whereby violent crimes committed by young people are most frequent between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. on school days. On the weekends or days where students are not in school, the peak times in which juveniles commit violent crimes resembles their adult counterparts – between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. A number of explanations for these consistent time frames can be provided. According to Fox, during a time where stay-at-home parenting is increasingly less common, young people have a limited amount of parental supervision during the hours following school. Extracurricular activities are often limited as well, especially in urban areas, and teenagers may use this

opportunity to engage in criminal behavior, free from the watchful eye of their parents or guardians.

Data from Massachusetts NIBRS, supports the prior research regarding the peak hours of juvenile offending. Figure 4-4 displays the hour in which incidents involving juvenile offenders were perpetrated. Clearly, juveniles are most likely to commit crimes during after-school hours. Between 1994 and 1999, over one-third of crimes committed by juveniles (40 percent) occurred between the hours of 2PM and 6PM.

**Figure 4-4.**



### ***Location of Incident***

Interestingly, the analysis of Massachusetts NIBRS data found that during the years 1994 to 1999, approximately one-third of incidents perpetrated by juveniles were committed in a residence (31 and 35 percent of incidents). Over the six-year period, between 9 and 16 percent of incidents occurred on the grounds of a school or college and approximately 1 in 5 incidents (18 to 21 percent of incidents) occurred on a street (i.e., a highway, road, or alley). Between 14 and 21 percent of incidents were perpetrated in a retail establishment.

**Table 4-28.**

**Incidents Involving Juvenile Offenders by Incident Location, 1994 - 1999**

Incident Location	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Retail Establishments	415	825	1,093	1,115	1,109	1,019	5,576
	19.2%	20.8%	18.6%	15.7%	14.6%	13.7%	16.3%
Food/ Beverage/ Lodging Facilities	30	86	88	101	123	117	545
	1.4%	2.2%	1.5%	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Other Commerical Properties	22	77	76	86	104	115	480
	1.0%	1.9%	1.3%	1.2%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%
Drug Stores/ Doctors Offices/ Hospitals	21	23	48	56	42	40	230
	1.0%	.6%	.8%	.8%	.6%	.5%	.7%
Government/ Public Buildings	40	67	105	107	121	117	557
	1.9%	1.7%	1.8%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Highway/ Roads/ Alleys	421	773	1,221	1,462	1,493	1,357	6,727
	19.5%	19.5%	20.7%	20.5%	19.7%	18.2%	19.7%
Parking Lots/ Garages	104	254	306	333	352	321	1,670
	4.8%	6.4%	5.2%	4.7%	4.6%	4.3%	4.9%
Residences	691	1,230	1,921	2,453	2,522	2,514	11,331
	32.0%	31.0%	32.6%	34.5%	33.3%	33.7%	33.2%
Schools/ Colleges	244	351	605	847	1,090	1,200	4,337
	11.3%	8.9%	10.3%	11.9%	14.4%	16.1%	12.7%
Other	90	144	190	220	256	271	1,171
	4.2%	3.6%	3.2%	3.1%	3.4%	3.6%	3.4%
Unknown	80	132	232	336	362	381	1,523
	3.7%	3.3%	3.9%	4.7%	4.8%	5.1%	4.5%
Total	2,158	3,962	5,885	7,116	7,574	7,452	34,147
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### *Time from Incident to Arrest*

According to Massachusetts law enforcement agencies reporting NIBRS data, between 88 and 92 percent of arrestees were apprehended within one day of the incident. An additional 7 to 10 percent of arrestees were apprehended within 1 and 30 days from the date of the incident. Across all six years, the average time from incident to arrest was slightly more than 1 day (1.12 days).

**Table 4-29.**

**Number of Days From Incident to Arrest, 1994 - 1999**

Number of Days	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Less than 1 day	1,064	1,918	2,768	3,084	3,446	3,344	15,624
	87.8%	90.8%	91.6%	92.0%	90.7%	90.2%	90.8%
1 to 30 days	124	179	211	228	303	314	1,359
	10.2%	8.5%	7.0%	6.8%	8.0%	8.5%	7.9%
31 to 60 days	14	8	21	15	17	31	106
	1.2%	.4%	.7%	.4%	.4%	.8%	.6%
61 to 90 days	4	2	7	10	12	7	42
	.3%	.1%	.2%	.3%	.3%	.2%	.2%
91 to 120 days		1	3	4	3	3	14
		.0%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%
121 to 180 days	1	1	4	5	7	5	23
	.1%	.0%	.1%	.1%	.2%	.1%	.1%
181 to 270 days	4	2	3	1	3	2	15
	.3%	.1%	.1%	.0%	.1%	.1%	.1%
271 to 352 days	1						1
	.1%						.0%
353 days or more		2	5	4	7	3	21
		.1%	.2%	.1%	.2%	.1%	.1%
Mean	1.17	1.11	1.12	1.11	1.13	1.13	1.12
Total	1,212	2,113	3,022	3,351	3,798	3,709	17,205

## JUVENILE OFFENDER WEAPON USE

Previous research has demonstrated a clear relationship between weapon carrying and involvement in criminal activity (Kaufman et al., 1998; Massachusetts Department of Education, 1998; Lizotte et al., 1994; Page & Hammermeister, 1994; Lockwood, 1997; Chesney-Lind, et al. 1996). Furthermore, victimization data has indicated an increase in the use of guns in the commission of violent crimes (Lizotte et al., 1994).

There are two primary motives for a juvenile to carry a weapon: sport and protection (Page & Hammermeister, 1997; Lizotte et al., 1994; Massachusetts Department of Education, 1997). It is the latter that puts both the juvenile offender and their potential victim at most risk. A common response to why young people carry weapons is that they provide them protection from outside threats. In addition, the association between weapon-carrying and delinquency, criminality, and aggressiveness, goes beyond an attempt to protect oneself from being “jumped” (Page & Hammermeister, 1997). In a study of young juveniles who reported carrying guns, Lizotte et al. (1994) found that protection gun owners, compared to those owned/carried guns for sport purposes only, were more likely to be involved in activities that cause a greater degree of harm to themselves and those around them.

### *Weapons Used in Incidents*

Interestingly, Table 4-34 indicates that a firearm was present in only a small percentage (1 to 3 percent) of incidents involving juvenile offenders, for a total of 572 incidents over the six-year period. From 1994 to 1999, 2 firearms were reportedly used in 62 incidents and 3 firearms were used in 2 incidents.

**Table 4-30.**

Incidents Involving Juvenile Offenders by Firearms Used in Incident, 1994 - 1999							
Firearm Used	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
0	2,099	3,879	5,781	6,988	7,463	7,365	33,575
	97.3%	97.9%	98.2%	98.2%	98.5%	98.8%	98.3%
1	54	74	87	116	99	78	508
	2.5%	1.9%	1.5%	1.6%	1.3%	1.0%	1.5%
2	4	9	16	12	12	9	62
	.2%	.2%	.3%	.2%	.2%	.1%	.2%
3	1		1				2
	.0%		.0%				.0%
Total	2,158	3,962	5,885	7,116	7,574	7,452	34,147
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Arrestee Weapon Possession***

NIBRS data provides the opportunity to examine the types of weapons juvenile arrestees are most likely to carry, the types of crimes juveniles commit with weapons, and the demographic characteristics of young offenders who choose to carry and use weapons. As offenders can be arrested with more than one weapon, the number of weapons does not add to the total number of arrestees presented in the last row of the table. Table 4-31 indicates that, from 1994 through 1999, 770 juveniles had a weapon in their possession at the time of their arrest. In total, the majority of armed arrestees were carrying a lethal cutting instrument (46 percent), followed by arrestees carrying a club, blackjack, or brass knuckles (29 percent). Of the 202 arrestees who were armed with a firearm, 43 percent were carrying a handgun.

**Table 4-31.**

<b>Juvenile Arrestees by Weapon Possession at the Time of Arrest, 1994 - 1999</b>							
Weapon Type	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Firearm -type unknown	1	7	10	8	7	10	43
	1.6%	8.3%	7.1%	5.0%	4.8%	5.6%	5.6%
Handgun	4	7	19	26	18	13	87
	6.5%	8.3%	13.6%	16.3%	12.3%	7.3%	11.3%
Rifle	2	2	5		1	2	12
	3.2%	2.4%	3.6%		.7%	1.1%	1.6%
Shotgun	3			2			5
	4.8%			1.3%			.6%
Other Firearm	6	8	12	12	10	7	55
	9.7%	9.5%	8.6%	7.5%	6.8%	3.9%	7.1%
Lethal Cutting Instrument	25	42	61	69	52	106	355
	40.3%	50.0%	43.6%	43.1%	35.6%	59.6%	46.1%
Club/Blackjack/Brass Knuckles	23	19	33	44	59	45	223
	37.1%	22.6%	23.6%	27.5%	40.4%	25.3%	29.0%
Total	62	84	140	160	146	178	770

### ***Weapons and Gender***

Gender differences have been identified in recent studies on juvenile weapons use. Using data from the *1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth*, Snyder and Sickmund (1999) found that males were 5 times more likely to report ever carrying a handgun than females (16 percent and 3 percent, respectively).

If young people are confident in carrying a weapon, they may be equally confident in using it. Research has provided some support that weapon choice, crime type, and gender is intricately related. Chesney-Lind et al., (1996) found that females were more likely to use a knife in the commission of a murder, as opposed to males who use guns more often.

A review of Massachusetts NIBRS data indicates that, of the 770 juveniles who were armed with a weapon at the time of their apprehension, both male and female arrestees were most likely to be armed with a cutting instrument (42 percent of males and 70 percent of females) (Table 4-32). While 87 percent of juveniles arrested with a weapon were male, 19 percent of juveniles arrested with a lethal cutting instrument were female.

**Table 4-32.**

**Juvenile Arrestees by Weapon Possession at Arrest by Gender, 1994 - 1999 (Column Percents)**

Weapon	Arrestee Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	
Firearm -type unknown	43			43
	6.4%			5.6%
Handgun	82	5		87
	12.2%	5.2%		11.3%
Rifle	10			10
	1.5%			1.3%
Shotgun	4	1		5
	.6%	1.0%		.6%
Other Firearm	54	1		55
	8.0%	1.0%		7.1%
Lethal Cutting Instrument	280	67		347
	41.7%	69.1%		45.1%
Club/ Blackjack/ Brass Knuckles	199	23	1	223
	29.6%	23.7%	100.0%	29.0%
Total	672	97	1	770
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 4-33.**

**Juvenile Arrestees by Weapon Possession at Arrest by Gender, 1994 - 1999 (Row Percents)**

Weapon	Arrestee Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	
Firearm -type unknown	43			43
	100.0%			100.0%
Handgun	82	5		87
	94.3%	5.7%		100.0%
Rifle	10			10
	100.0%			100.0%
Shotgun	4	1		5
	80.0%	20.0%		100.0%
Other Firearm	54	1		55
	98.2%	1.8%		100.0%
Lethal Cutting Instrument	280	67		347
	80.7%	19.3%		100.0%
Club/ Blackjack/ Brass Knuckles	199	23	1	223
	89.2%	10.3%	.4%	100.0%
Total	672	97	1	770
	87.3%	12.6%	.1%	100.0%

### ***Weapons and Age***

National research has supported the claim that older juveniles are more likely than their younger peers to carry a weapon. Snyder and Sickmund (1999) found that 12 percent of 16 year olds reported carrying a weapon in their lifetime, as compared to 8 percent of 12 to 13 year olds. During a one-year period between 1996 and 1997, 44 percent of crime firearms (i.e., firearms illegally possessed, used in a crime, or suspected of being used in a crime) were confiscated from persons under the age of 25, and 11 percent were confiscated from juveniles under 17.

According to data reported to Massachusetts NIBRS, 18 of the 25 juveniles (72 percent) under the age of 12 who were armed with a weapon at the time of their apprehension, were armed with a lethal cutting instrument. Juveniles between the ages of 12 and 16 who were apprehended with a weapon were also most frequently armed with a lethal cutting instrument (44 percent). Overwhelmingly, the majority of all weapons found in the possession of juvenile arrestees were found in juveniles between the ages of 12 and 16 (Table 4-35).

**Table 4-34.****Juvenile Arrestees by Weapon Possession at Arrest  
by Age Group, 1994 - 1999 (Column Percents)**

Weapon	Juvenile Arrestee Age Group		Total
	<12	12-16	
Firearm -type unknown		43	43
		5.8%	5.6%
Handgun	1	86	87
	4.0%	11.5%	11.3%
Rifle		10	10
		1.3%	1.3%
Shotgun		5	5
		.7%	.6%
Other Firearm	1	54	55
	4.0%	7.2%	7.1%
Lethal Cutting Instrument	18	329	347
	72.0%	44.2%	45.1%
Club/ Blackjack/ Brass Knuckles	5	218	223
	20.0%	29.3%	29.0%
Total	25	745	770
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 4-35.****Juvenile Arrestees by Weapon Possession at Arrest  
by Age Group, 1994 - 1999 (Row Percents)**

Weapon	Juvenile Arrestee Age Group		Total
	<12	12-16	
Firearm -type unknown		43	43
		100.0%	100.0%
Handgun	1	86	87
	1.1%	98.9%	100.0%
Rifle		10	10
		100.0%	100.0%
Shotgun		5	5
		100.0%	100.0%
Other Firearm	1	54	55
	1.8%	98.2%	100.0%
Lethal Cutting Instrument	18	329	347
	5.2%	94.8%	100.0%
Club/ Blackjack/ Brass Knuckles	5	218	223
	2.2%	97.8%	100.0%
Total	25	745	770
	3.2%	96.8%	100.0%

## **JUVENILE OFFENDER GANG INVOLVEMENT**

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A review of the literature regarding the incidence of juvenile gang activity and membership has found various findings with regard to age, gender, and crimes perpetrated by juvenile gang members. Furthermore, the documented number of juveniles involved in gangs varies by source and the definition of "gang" used in the research. Though many local and state agencies have begun collecting data of this nature, the interpretation of the term "gang" is by no means universal (Snyder & Sickmund, 1999).

In James C. Howell's *Youth Gangs: An Overview* (1998), the average age of youth gang members is 17-18 years old, the typical range between 12 and 24. However, in cities which have had a history of existing gangs, such as Chicago and Los Angeles, the average age of its members tend to be older. "Although younger members are becoming more common, it is the older membership that has increased the most" (Howell, 1998, p. 2). Today's juvenile gangs have become much more prevalent in rural counties, small cities and towns, and are predominately African-American and Hispanic. The offenses that the gang commits are related to the different racial/ethnic makeup. African American gangs appear to be involved with drug related offenses, Hispanic gangs with "turf" related violence, and white and Asian American gangs with property crimes.

A larger body of research focuses on comparisons between gang-involved and non-gang involved youth (C. Ronald Huff, 1998; Thornberry et al., 1993; Battin-Pearson et al, 1998). Specifically, research has found that gang members are more likely to commit violent and serious offenses, and more frequently, than non-gang involved youth (Thornberry et al., 1993).

NIBRS provides information regarding the circumstances involved in the crimes of homicide and aggravated assault. Two possible circumstances of these crimes are “gangland,” which implies organized crime involvement, and “juvenile gang.” Table 4-36 reveals the circumstances of cases involving victims of murder and aggravated assault, between the years of 1994 and 1999, where the offender was a juvenile. Two homicide victims (22 percent) were murdered in a gangland killing, and 34 victims (.4 percent) were assaulted due to gangland circumstances. While no victims were murdered in a juvenile gang killing, 3.2 percent of all victims of aggravated assault (285 victims) were involved in an incident with juvenile gang circumstances.

**Table 4-36.**

Offense Circumstances	Most Serious Offense Against the Victim	
	Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	Aggravated Assault
Argument	1	4,788
	11.1%	53.6%
Assault on Law Enforcement Officer		307
		3.4%
Drug Dealing	1	6
	11.1%	.1%
Gangland	2	34
	22.2%	.4%
Juvenile Gang		285
		3.2%
Lovers Quarrel		42
		.5%
Other Felony Involved	3	49
	33.3%	.5%
Other Circumstances		1,954
		21.9%
Unknown Circumstances	2	1,472
	22.2%	16.5%
Total	9	8,902
	100.0%	100.0%

### ***Gender and Gang Activity***

Nationally, research on gang involvement by gender suggests that females represent 10 percent of gang membership, up from 6 percent in 1992 (Snyder and Sickmund, 1999). While it appears that female gang involvement may be increasing, is the degree of violence committed by females involved with gangs also on the rise?

Given the increasing number of independent female gangs, juvenile justice researchers have begun to focus on possible differences between male and female gangs and their criminal enterprises. Any conclusions reached regarding gender differences and degrees of violence among juvenile gang members mirrors what has been found with regard to criminal activity among the general juvenile population. Specifically, females are less violent in their criminal endeavors, and engage in them less frequently than males. "Female gang violence was more likely to involve simple battery or assault rather than homicide, and female nonviolent crimes consisted of many liquor law violations" (Howell, 1998, p. 3).

Research consistently indicates that male and female gang members vary in the degrees of the crimes they commit (Snyder & Sickmund, 1995; Cromwell et al., 1992; Chesney-Lind et al., 1996; Curry, 1998; Howell, 1998). Snyder & Sickmund (1995) found that male gang members engaged in many more violent crimes than females (51% compared to 32%), and females participated in many more incidences of property crimes (43% compared to 15%). In a related study by Chesney-Lind et al., (1996) on female gang participation, over one third (38%) of the crimes committed by female gang members were property crimes, followed by status and drug offenses. Males on the other hand were involved in "other assaults" (27%), followed by property crimes (14%). A number of conclusions were drawn from this research. First, the typical criminal profile of a female gang member generally reflects that of female *delinquents*, young girls *not* involved with a gang. Though they may engage in a wider variety of delinquent behavior, the delinquency reflects the stereotypical "'hanging out', 'partying', and the occasional fight in defending one's friend or territory." (Chesney-Lind et al., 1996, p.203). Second, compared to young males, females involved in gangs commit less crime at a lower frequency. It appears that while the rate of female gang membership is very small, the violent behavior that female gang members engage in is even smaller.

Previous research has also attempted to discern the type of gang in which young women are involved. In Curry's (1998) examination of this issue, he notes three separate forms of female gangs. First, the auxiliary gang, comprised of females whose gang involvement depends on their affiliation with male gangs. Second, gangs that include both males and females who are equally autonomous in their own ways. And lastly, the independent female gangs, where the gang organization is autonomous and independent of any other gangs.

Tables 4-37 and 4-38 demonstrate the gender of juvenile offenders and the circumstances surrounding their crimes of homicide and aggravated assault against victims. From 1994 to 1999, 2 percent of victims who were murdered or assaulted by a female offender were victimized because of gangland or juvenile gang circumstances; 4 percent of victims who were murdered or assaulted by a male offender were victimized because of gangland or juvenile gang circumstances (Table 4-37). Of the 8,911 victims who were murdered or had an act of aggravated assault committed against them, the majority of acts involving gangland circumstances and juvenile gang circumstances were perpetrated by male offenders (97 and 84 percent of victims, respectively).

**Table 4-37.**

**Homicide and Aggravated Assault Cases Committed by Juveniles by Gender and Offense Circumstances, 1994 - 1999**  
(Column Percents)

Offense Circumstances	Offender Gender		
	Female	Male	Unknown
Argument	1,644	3,140	5
	66.5%	48.6%	38.5%
Assault on Law Enforcement Officer	92	215	
	3.7%	3.3%	
Drug Dealing	1	6	
	.0%	.1%	
Gangland	1	35	
	.0%	.5%	
Juvenile Gang	44	240	1
	1.8%	3.7%	7.7%
Lovers Quarrel	20	22	
	.8%	.3%	
Other Felony Involved	5	47	
	.2%	.7%	
Other Circumstances	369	1,585	
	14.9%	24.5%	
Unknown Circumstances	297	1,170	7
	12.0%	18.1%	53.8%
Total	2,459	6,439	13
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 4-38.**

**Homicide and Aggravated Assault Cases Committed by Juveniles by Gender and Offense Circumstances, 1994 - 1999**  
(Row Percents)

Offense Circumstances	Offender Gender			Total
	Female	Male	Unknown	
Argument	1,644	3,140	5	4,789
	34.3%	65.6%	.1%	100.0%
Assault on Law Enforcement Officer	92	215		307
	30.0%	70.0%		100.0%
Drug Dealing	1	6		7
	14.3%	85.7%		100.0%
Gangland	1	35		36
	2.8%	97.2%		100.0%
Juvenile Gang	44	240	1	285
	15.4%	84.2%	.4%	100.0%
Lovers Quarrel	20	22		42
	47.6%	52.4%		100.0%
Other Felony Involved	5	47		52
	9.6%	90.4%		100.0%
Other Circumstances	369	1,585		1,954
	18.9%	81.1%		100.0%
Unknown Circumstances	297	1,170	7	1,474
	20.1%	79.4%	.5%	100.0%
Total	2,459	6,439	13	8,911
	27.6%	72.2%	.1%	100.0%



## CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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This report presents a volume of data derived from a variety of sources. As the 14 to 17 year old age group in Massachusetts is expected to increase 30 percent by the year 2005 (as compared to 1995 estimates), there is a need for increased attention to the ensuing impact on social service and public safety sectors of government. The identification of current juvenile crime patterns is crucial, as these trends are likely to continue as the juvenile population swells.

Critical information regarding juvenile offenders is provided by law enforcement to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data collection programs. The information provided in this report reflects a comprehensive analysis of these law enforcement data systems. For the first time, data regarding the characteristics and behavior of juvenile offenders is available for Massachusetts. While these data have been previously reported from a nationwide perspective, we now have Massachusetts' outlook on juvenile crime.

Through these systems we have determined that the overwhelming majority of crimes committed by juveniles are not crimes against persons, but property crimes. We have also uncovered that juvenile weapons offenses in Massachusetts are relatively low, with only 17 per 100,000 juveniles arrested for weapons possession. Furthermore, NIBRS data indicates that only two percent of incidents involving juveniles were committed with a firearm.

Certain data recovered in this inaugural analysis have implications for policymaking at the local and state levels of government. Specifically, we have confirmed national findings that juvenile crime in Massachusetts is at its peak during the after-school hours of 2PM and 6PM. While Massachusetts has been diligent in providing resources to local communities for juvenile programming during these critical hours, it is apparent that these programs must continue and additional, innovative strategies that provide positive alternatives to crime during the after school hours be explored.

Given the increased attention to crimes committed in our Nation's schools, an analysis of the location of juvenile crimes was warranted. Information provided by law enforcement through NIBRS indicates that approximately 13 percent of incidents involving juveniles in Massachusetts occurred on the grounds of a school or college. While this figure may appear to be low as compared to all incidents committed by juveniles, it should be taken very seriously given the sanctity of our schools as educational institutions. Any disruption in our community's schools is seen as a disruption to the education of the youth of our Commonwealth. The placement of police officers in our schools creates an environment that fosters safety, dispels fears of crime and violence, and increases police/youth relations. As such, law enforcement and school departments should continue to build relationships and implement programs that support police/youth relations and school safety.

There is also data supporting a call for law enforcement to begin to understand crime occurring outside of their jurisdictional boundaries. While police agencies are primarily interested in crimes occurring within their jurisdictional boundaries, criminal offenders are not confined to one particular community. In fact, one-quarter of juveniles arrested by law enforcement were

not residents of the community in which they committed their crime. There is a need for strong communication between police departments to identify juvenile offenders and their potential areas of operation. The spatial analysis of crime, through computerized mapping applications, allows law enforcement to identify hot spots of criminal activity that cross political boundaries. The Massachusetts State Police is currently implementing a web-based application, that will visually map crimes reported through NIBRS, allowing participating agencies the means for identifying the nature and volume of crimes committed in and around their community. Multijurisdictional projects, such as the one being pioneered by the Massachusetts State Police, are encouraged to help identify and eradicate crime patterns occurring across communities.

It is important to note that the information presented in this report results primarily from the investigative work of the law enforcement community. It is only through the continued dedication of police towards understanding the crimes and criminals of the Commonwealth that these data are available. Currently, NIBRS data represents approximately one-third of the state's population. Increased participation by law enforcement in the UCR and NIBRS programs, will afford us much greater knowledge of the crimes occurring in the Commonwealth. While the aggregated data reported to UCR provides the overall number of crime incidents and arrests, it does not allow for any comprehensive analysis of the characteristics of these crimes or the offenders and victims involved. That stated, the Massachusetts research community needs to continue to demonstrate the value of these data to law enforcement and the public, and state policymakers should continue to encourage law enforcement participation in UCR and, more specifically, NIBRS.

The information highlighted above represent only a few of the findings of the analysis presented in this report. Law enforcement representatives and policymakers are encouraged to review the report in its entirety to become informed of the status of juvenile crime in the Commonwealth.

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## APPENDIX

**Table A-1.**

### Number of Incidents Reported by Agency, 1994 – 1999

Agency	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Abington			776	538	558	1,746	3,618
Acton	486	4	670	663	589	161	2,573
Acushnet	584	634	575	428	494	755	3,470
Agawam			196	1,251	1,253	2,171	4,871
Amesbury	56	124	373	3	871	955	2,382
Andover	1,481	1,391	1,327	1,007	1,191	1,215	7,612
Ashland	427	384	330	196	167	697	2,201
Athol	458	949	732	652	579	1,320	4,690
Auburn	995	1,018	744	1,021	1,277	1,374	6,429
Ayer	1,113	961	993	611	472	987	5,137
Bedford	93	150	168	190	178	174	953
Bellingham			44	920	1,062	870	2,896
Berlin					126	122	248
Blackstone			272	382	373	1,025	2,052
Bolton	240	162	200	116	104	268	1,090
Bourne		1,507	1,377	1,159	1,214	1,928	7,185
Boxford	129	154	181	181	191	217	1,053
Boylston		10	41	47	7	109	214
Braintree						81	81
Brewster						120	120
Bridgewater			212	718	650	660	2,240
Canton			797	876	798	728	3,199
Carver	77	728	622	567	492	420	2,906
Chelsea		5,511	5,450	3,524	3,266	7,986	25,737
Chicopee			4,545	4,279	4,127	7,951	20,902
Clinton					558	909	1,467
Cohasset				233	172	590	995
Concord				391	441	409	1,241
Danvers				2	1,403	1,317	2,722
Dartmouth	1,500	2,860	2,482	2,136	1,919	2,942	13,839
Dedham	1,241	1,051	1,038	859	1,005	874	6,068
Dennis			2	23	1,010	1,501	2,536
Douglas	136	182	165	123	110	523	1,239
Dover		142	73	79	173	17	484
East Bridgewater				300	336	286	922
East Brookfield					2	141	143
East Longmeadow					589	904	1,493
Eastham	1		138	423	106	373	1,041
Easton	686	734	543	574	531	501	3,569
Erving			136	65	70	218	489
Fairhaven	904	1,403	1,268	1,199	1,112	1,425	7,311
Falmouth				8	42	2,668	2,718
Franklin			134	633	265	2	1,034
Freetown	494	414	485	325	263	782	2,763
Gardner	124	646	1,599	1,449	1,228	876	5,922

Agency	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Abington			776	538	558	1,746	3,618
Gill					1	83	84
Grafton	509	537	537	347	382	832	3,144
Granby						20	20
Greenfield					1,732	2,803	4,535
Groton						193	193
Groveland				179	168	229	576
Halifax	87	358	436	335	366	622	2,204
Hanson	321	647	687	389	367	938	3,349
Hardwick						95	95
Holden	489	402	443	290	258	673	2,555
Holliston	1	19	251	171	168	166	776
Hopedale						15	15
Hopkinton	405	560	422	267	162	158	1,974
Hubbardston						203	203
Hudson		945	819	763	907	1,014	4,448
Hull						130	130
Kingston					307	887	1,194
Lancaster						237	237
Leicester	484	429	364	425	490	404	2,596
Leominster	4,555	4,446	4,107	3,699	3,781	3,805	24,393
Lexington			476	473	505	477	1,931
Littleton	151	199	174	142	136	105	907
Longmeadow	642	593	643	657	714	392	3,641
Lunenburg	647	639	511	514	449	403	3,163
Lynnfield				306	305	361	972
Mansfield			1,028	979	885	3,667	6,559
Marblehead			461	815	626	676	2,578
Marion	430	325	274	209	196	430	1,864
Marlborough	1,907	1,872	1,890	2,090	1,874	1,600	11,233
Marshfield					805	871	1,676
Mashpee				1	59	295	355
Mattapoissett				154	160	145	459
Maynard			10	493	619	466	1,588
Medfield	200	234	202	175	177	218	1,206
Medway						1	1
Middleboro	1,470	1,416	1,409	1,577	1,325	1,688	8,885
Middleton			142	231	275	243	891
Millbury	406	419	415	308	292	618	2,458
Millis					7	149	156
Millville						32	32
Montague	621	716	762	755	732	1,465	5,051
Mt. Holyoke College			43	93	102	96	334
Nahant						12	12
Needham		1	302	464	510	1,164	2,441
Newburyport						488	488
Norfolk	225	231	159	170	106	86	977
North Adams		2,122	2,145	1,453	1,490	3,607	10,817
North Reading				179	217	512	908
Northboro	543	567	603	582	506	523	3,324
Northbridge		947	831	599	501	1,630	4,508

Agency	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Abington			776	538	558	1,746	3,618
Norton		344	491	490	444	417	2,186
Norwell		204	223	175	732	9	1,343
Norwood	705	1,382	1,325	1,346	1,201	1,517	7,476
Orange	605	703	603	545	459	1,143	4,058
Oxford			761	520	461	1,144	2,886
Palmer	1,076	1,128	1,163	728	732	1,937	6,764
Pembroke			952	713	765	1,084	3,514
Plainville						76	76
Plymouth	3,488	3,499	2,847	2,313	2,661	2,782	17,590
Princeton				42	79	176	297
Rowley	222	187	158	104	93	683	1,447
Salisbury		1,745	1,800	863	987	3,942	9,337
Sandwich	869	971	638	1,046	1,100	925	5,549
Saugus	3,069	2,749	2,037	1,806	1,755	3,650	15,066
Scituate						240	240
Seekonk		1,573	1,433	1,186	1,195	1,673	7,060
Shirley		183	189	138	142	114	766
Shrewsbury	200	1,216	828	1,163	1,274	1,289	5,970
Somerset				880	951	1,886	3,717
South Hadley			787	621	552	1,275	3,235
Southborough					105	93	198
Southbridge	1,742	1,593	1,454	1,186	1,248	2,845	10,068
Southwick	343	494	396	292	267	751	2,543
Springfield			14,783	27,773	24,210	27,704	94,470
Stow	10	100	108	129	132	169	648
Sturbridge	546	563	525	359	391	547	2,931
Sudbury	249	342	312	262	315	282	1,762
Sutton			325	203	163	640	1,331
Swampscott			1	353	354	475	1,183
Swansea	1,366	1,264	1,151	720	829	1,767	7,097
Templeton	74	82	179	204	170	320	1,029
Tewksbury	1,510	1,468	1,267	1,177	1,244	1,120	7,786
Townsend						292	292
Truro	180	215	122	205	193	167	1,082
Tyngsborough	777	706	648	569	622	1,314	4,636
U-Mass Amherst	1,585	1,609	1,551	1,302	1,134	1,615	8,796
U-Mass Boston	201	181	187	200	146	202	1,117
Upton			235	167	152	733	1,287
Uxbridge	667	622	519	503	438	1,108	3,857
Wakefield						444	444
Walpole				1,091	971	865	2,927
Ware						159	159
Warren	298	308	260	294	271	530	1,961
Wayland	11	5	1	163	345	344	869
Webster	1,427	1,359	1,202	1,142	1,129	1,247	7,506
Wellesley						581	581
West Boylston				370	150		520
West Brookfield					5	232	237
West Newbury			143	82	104	296	625
Westborough	718	745	675	614	649	1,079	4,480

Agency	Incident Year						Total
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Abington			776	538	558	1,746	3,618
Westfield					1,698	3,144	4,842
Westfield SC				341	221	313	875
Westford	1	34	219	109	263	318	944
Westminster					2	4	6
Weston				47	33	25	105
Westport						30	30
Wilbraham					464	1,098	1,562
Winchendon	468	518	499	715	679	1,020	3,899
Winchester				494	465	432	1,391
Woburn			747	1,633	1,433	1,541	5,354
Worcester	3,749	20,612	19,485	21,058	20,125	18,618	103,647
Wrentham						2	2
Number of Agencies Reporting	67	79	105	122	136	156	157
Total Incidents Reported	51,474	88,447	112,463	126,871	130,739	187,653	697,647